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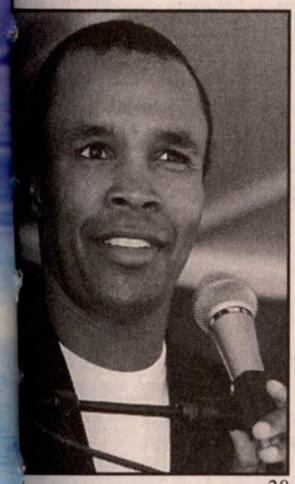

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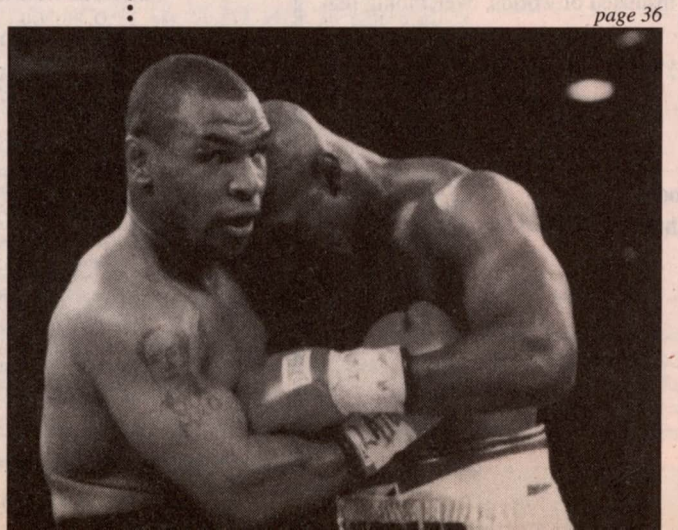

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RINGSIDE

One of the Einsteins who interviewed me after Holyfield-Tyson II asked whether the fight had been good for boxing. You know, any publicity is good publicity, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

After asking her if she was serious (she was), I thought about what I had seen 48 hours earlier: Having reduced himself to a two-bite wrestling heel, boxing's biggest name was being pelted by garbage as he left the ring. It was strangely reminiscent of—and just as pathetic as—Mountain Rivera in the Indian headdress.

Yeah, lady, the fight was great for boxing. Just great.

Seventeen years ago, I witnessed Roberto Duran's No Mas surrender in New Orleans. I remember turning to my colleagues in the press section at the Superdome, seeking confirmation that I had indeed seen what I had just seen. After a few moments, my disbelief turned to frustration, and then anger.

I've been in boxing a lot longer now, and in Las Vegas, my anger was laced with embarrassment. How, I wondered, was I now supposed to explain boxing's appeal to the uninitiated? How was I supposed to defend the wonderful/horrible sport against what was sure to come? I couldn't, and I wasn't going to try. With Holyfield-Tyson I having been an unexpected gem, we were all riding a high. But boxing has always been threatened by prosperity, so maybe we should've been prepared for a crash-landing.

Suckers that we are, we'll all be back next time, and unashamedly, too. But only the apologists, ignorant as they are, can claim to be surprised that the ranks of the casual fans are thinning.

We've always been able to separate Tyson the man from Tyson the fighter because he allowed us to. In fact, he made it easy. No matter how troubled and tortured he was, and no matter how uncomfortable it was that the most famous fighter in the world was a convicted rapist, Tyson had always managed to control his rage when the gloves were laced. After all, that's what a professional does.

As he was biting off Holyfield's ear, Tyson was also spitting in boxing's face and tossing his chance for a lasting greatness into the cheap seats, which, at the MGM Grand Garden, aren't so cheap. Some sins are unforgivable, and in one hideous minute, Tyson managed to alienate those who had remained loyal no matter what: the hard-core fans. For a man who lives in the most insulated of worlds, overcoming that could prove to be far too great a challenge.

Tyson may not have regained the WBA heavyweight title, but he did claim a new one: The Most Hated Man In Boxing.

If the crown fits, wear it.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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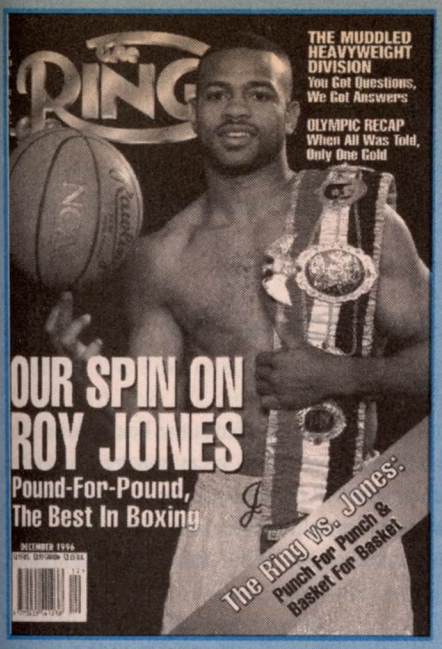

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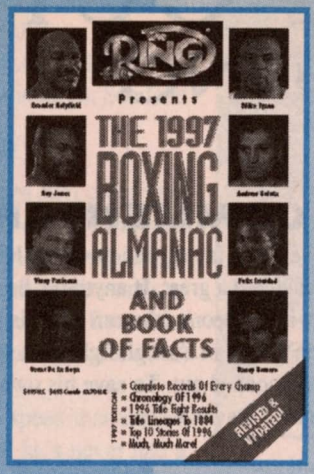

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

BITING COMMENTARY

Mike Tyson never was, is not, and never will be a great fighter. He lacks the heart, desire, and class to ever be considered a great. If anything, he is nothing more than a great puncher. And when he gets in the ring with someone who can take his punch and will punch back, he loses his heart.

Whenever Tyson's been in a tough fight with someone more skilled (Evander Holyfield, Buster Douglas), he's been knocked out. To save his own worthless pride, he had to bite Holyfield twice. He was finding the easy way out.

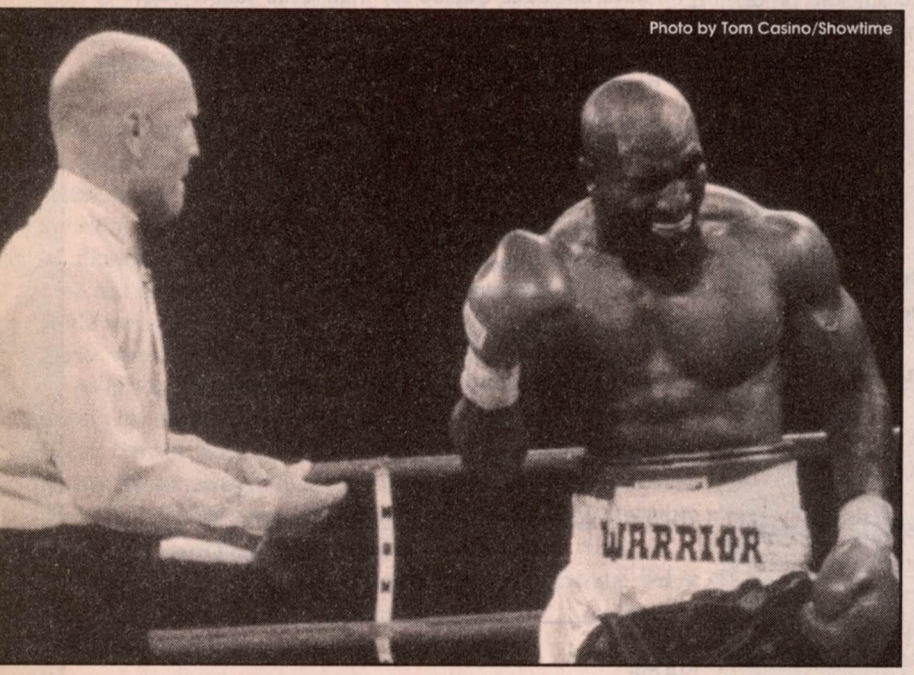
KARL CARONCHI
Mayfield Heights, OH

Not only was I appalled by the actions of Tyson during his rematch with Holyfield, but I was annoyed that referee Mills Lane considered Tyson's heinous, illegal act only a "foul." A foul is an unacceptable action involving a potential risk. However, the premeditated act of purposefully spitting out your mouthpiece and ripping a chunk out of an opponent's ear (twice) is the intentional mutilation of a human being.

I think Lane knew deep down that Tyson should have been disqualified after the first bite, but I believe he was too scared to stop the fight. And even after the second bite, he allowed the round to continue to its conclusion.

Lane compromised Evander's well-being. Tyson's behavior imitated that of a crazed, rabid animal, and he should have been disqualified immediately after the first bite. As for Lane, he should be ashamed of himself for allowing such an act to be repeated—at the expense of Evander Holyfield.

ANN MARIE LYDIC
Baltimore, MD



Evander Holyfield reacts to the bite felt round the world. In one week, Holyfield-Tyson II brought more mail than THE RING generally receives in three months.

I have always been a valid Tyson fan, but after June 28, I've lost all respect for him. All he did was knock boxing further down in the public's eyes. We need more Holyfields and De La Hoyas.

JOHN DELESANDRI
Houston, TX

I have just witnessed one of the most disgusting sights in the history of boxing. Tyson's disgraceful conduct in the third round of his potentially epic rematch with Holyfield put a huge gray cloud over a sport that can really do without it.

So why did Mike do it? Because Holyfield butted him throughout two fights, he claims. Funny, but I seem to remember Tyson saying very graciously after the first fight, "He butted me, but I probably butted him, too." Holyfield simply stood his ground, and that's why Tyson suffered an eye cut.

In fact, Tyson bit Holyfield to get out of a situation that would have resulted in him again get-

ting beaten by a better man. It was a brutal, cowardly act, and wasn't it significant that Mike was most willing to battle after he had been disqualified and there were about 40 people between him and Holyfield?

Please, Mike, if you fight again, win or lose in the dignified manner which we should be able to expect from you.

COLIN McDOUGAL
Edinburgh, Scotland

A HILL OF A CHAMP

Before THE RING or any of its sister magazines start crucifying Virgil Hill and his title-losing performance vs. Dariusz Michalczewski, I would like to state a few facts in defense of Hill.

Give Virgil all the credit in the world for traveling thousands of miles and fighting on Michalczewski's home turf, in front of a bunch of rowdy Germans. Hill took a hell of a beating and showed his critics he indeed does have a heart.

Hill may no longer have the hand and foot speed that carried him through the light heavyweight division, and he's never had a knockout punch. But he is one of the very few fighters who has represented the sport with class, as opposed to, say, those who get several chances after serving time or doing drugs.

Don't forget that Hill is 33. There always comes a time when a fighter begins to lose his God-given talents. In some cases, skills quickly deteriorate. This happened to Riddick Bowe at age 29. And if they stay in the sport too long, it'll happen to Roy Jones, Terry Norris, Felix Trinidad, and Oscar De La Hoya, too.

In terms of sportsmanship and exemplary conduct, Hill remains the undisputed champion.

JEANNIE ST. JAMES
Dumont, NJ

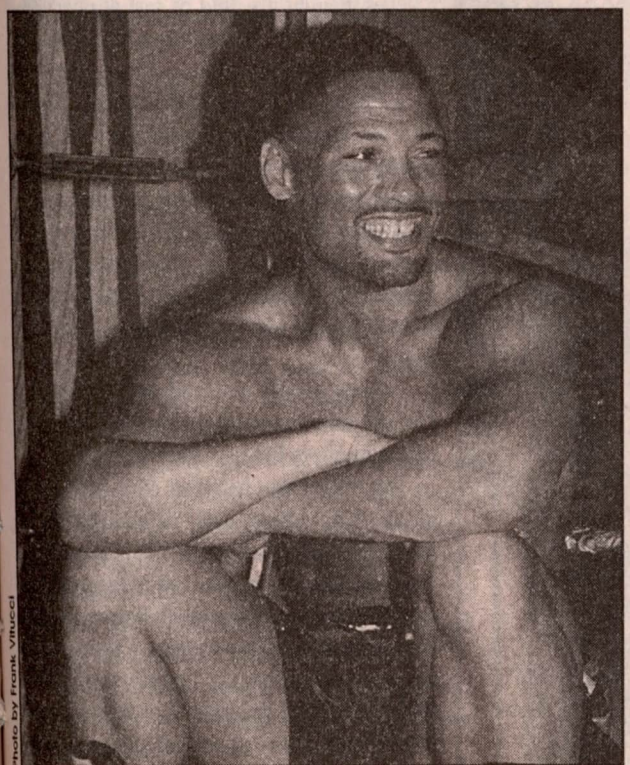


Photo by Frank Vinucci

Dariusz Michalczewski wiped this smile off Virgil Hill's face. Nonetheless, Hill has made new fans by recently fighting a string of undefeated opponents.

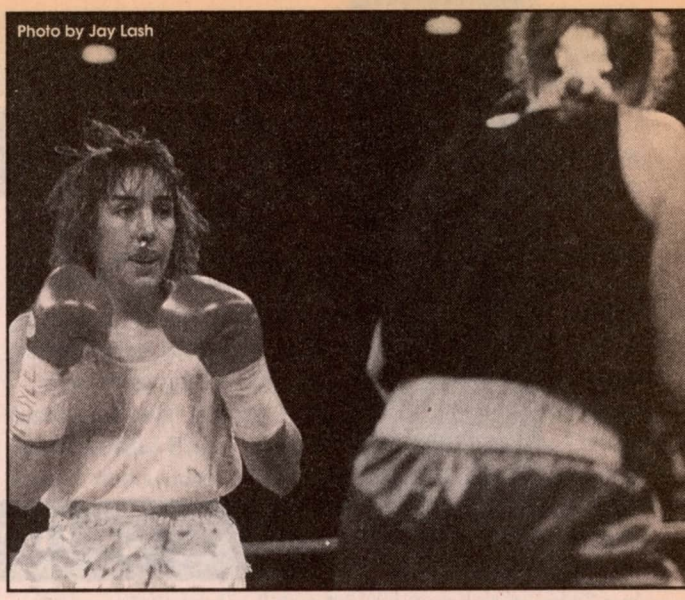


Photo by Jay Lash

Christy Martin tasted her own blood during her June 28 battle with Andrea DeShong, which she won by seventh-round TKO. Did Martin-DeShong belong on the Holyfield-Tyson II undercard?

THE WOMEN & THE BEAN

I attended my first professional boxing match in 1947, and in 1951 I fought in the Golden Gloves. Since that time I have been a serious, dedicated fight fan, which brings me to the matter of women boxers and Butterbean.

I have no problem with lady boxers, but let them fight on their own ticket, possibly "Ladies Fight Night At The Forum." Don't insert them into a championship card and pay them more than some fighter with a 20-2 record whose future could depend on the outcome of his bout and the purse.

As for Butterbean, he belongs in the wrestling arena. He and his mismatched bouts are an insult to serious boxing devotees. It is sad enough that we now have 17 weight classes and who knows how many title belts, but this type of showmanship bodes ill for the fight game and the true fight fan.

S. NEAL CROZIER
Tempe, AZ

WHITAKER'S RECORD

I'm writing in response to "Ryan Out Loud" in the August '97 issue. Columnist Jeff Ryan finishes by saying that Pernell Whitaker could retire with two losses and a draw and still be unbeaten. *Please!* First off, Whitaker lost to Oscar De La Hoya fair and square in what was an anticlimactic fight. *Both* fighters looked bad. De La Hoya offered all the effective aggressiveness, albeit not much of it.

I've always given the devil his due. Whitaker *is* great, and he *was* robbed against Jose Luis Ramirez and Julio Cesar Chavez. These were ugly decisions, but so were "Sweet Pea's" wins over Wilfredo Rivera. Whitaker got his butt kicked in the first fight. I scored the second bout a draw, but it didn't bother me that Whitaker got the verdict.

Whitaker retiring unbeaten? Don't make me laugh.

ROCKY SEITZ
Pensacola, FL ■

ROUND ONE

THE LADY MONGOOSE

Archie Moore watched as his youngest child slid into his old black velvet boxing robe. After Moore's retirement, the robe hung in storage until recycled by his daughter, J'Marie, for her professional debut on June 27 at The Tropicana in Atlantic City. The robe fit. She sewed "Lady Mongoose" onto the back and added a little elastic in the waist. No major alterations were needed because father's and daughter's weight and reach are almost identical.

Photo by Arlene Schulman

One other similarity: Moore has changed his age so often, no one can be sure how old he really is. J'Marie will only say she's in her 30s. "I want to carry on the Mongoose tradition," explains the former flight attendant.

Moore can only shake his head in surprise. "Never thought it would be one of my daughters," he said. "I always thought it would be one of my sons."

J'Marie, 5'11" and 168 pounds, fought a shorter opponent in Gretta Daniels. Each fighter was tentative, waiting for the other to make a move. They were not graceful, artistic, or athletic. By the end of the first round, both looked exhausted and ready to collapse. Twice, Daniels raised her leg to kick J'Marie. It was J'Marie who earned a unanimous decision.

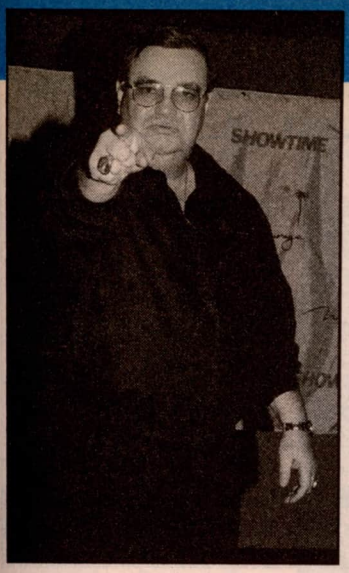
"I was totally drained and frustrated," J'Marie said afterward. "I couldn't get a handle on her style because she had none."

Her father was beaming. "I'm quite excited about it," Moore said. "It reminded me of how I felt. But I've been in bigger places."

J'Marie hopes to move on to bigger places, too. She and sister/manager Reena are planning to head back into training. "There's nothing as intense as boxing," proclaimed J'Marie. "I'd like to be a champion just like my father was. I don't know about boxing for 40 years though."

–Arlene Schulman

THE CALL MUST GO ON



Mike Tyson's cannibalism and the chaos that followed made all the headlines, but there was another story worth telling that unfolded on June 28.

Col. Bob Sheridan has been calling Don King's fights for an international audience for 24 years. On Friday morning, one day before the fight, which was to be broadcast to about 140 countries, the 53-year-old Sheridan, who has had heart problems, felt a twinge in his chest. Later that day, after conducting interviews with some of the fighters, he told Dr. Ferdie Pacheco of a pain in his arm. Sheridan said, "I can't go to the hospital, I have to call the fight," but Pacheco talked him into taking a cab to Desert Springs Hospital.

Doctors found an abnormality in Sheridan's EKG. "You have three blocked arteries, and your main artery is completely blocked," came the word from Dr. Ram K. Singh. By 7 p.m., the Colonel was undergoing an angioplasty.

"The doc's thinking three, four days in the hospital," said Sheridan, "but I'd been through this before and I knew that if I could get out of intensive care in time, I still had a shot at working the fight. Of course, if you pull out the tubes from your leg too soon, you can bleed to death."

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sheridan was able to walk up and down the hallway, which was all the convincing he needed. "I'm going, doc," he said. "I can't let you go," replied Singh. "You just had a moderate heart attack. I can't sign you out."

Guess who got his way. The compromise: Sheridan would assume his usual position ringside, and Singh, who had never before attended a fight, would be right behind him. The Colonel usually works alone, but on this night he headed a three-man broadcast team, including professional broadcaster Bruce Beck, who was brought in just in case, and Singh, who sat one row back, right next to the defibulator.

"I was a little tired, a little weak, but there was no pain," said the Colonel. "And of course, I was up for the fight."

Immediately after the main event, Sheridan was taken back to the hospital by ambulance. The next day, Singh opted for two more angioplasties instead of quadruple bypass surgery.

When we spoke with him a few days later, Sheridan was doing fine. He was still in Las Vegas, but planning to fly home to Boston in a day or two. "Can't stay there too long," he said. "Gotta be in Nashville for Don's show on July 19."

–Steve Farhood

WINNER TAKE ALL

Winner take all: These days, it's a concept as rare as a Chinese heavyweight champion. It just doesn't ... Wait a second, it just did!

On June 12 in Edmonton, Alberta, Manny Sobral, 23-0, and Tony "Bad Boy" Badea, 18-2-1, squared off for the Canadian junior middleweight crown and a good piece of coin. The winner received $25,000, and the loser nothing.

Sobral won the scrap by technical decision (97-93 on all three cards) after an accidental clash of heads opened a deep gash on Badea's face in the 11th round.

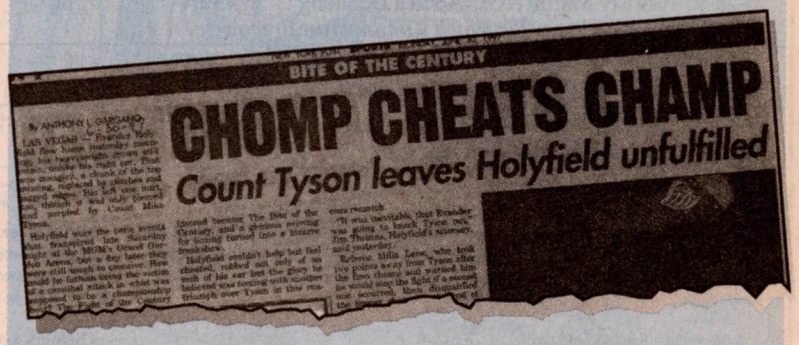
Who cooked up this wild winner-take-all thing anyway? "It was my idea," said Gerry Gilroy, the fight's promoter. "Badea's manager, Milan Lubovac, wanted $20,000 for his guy, and so did Sobral. I couldn't afford $40,000, so I offered $25,000 in a brawl for it all. They all agreed, and they didn't mind at all."

For his troubles, Badea, bloodied and battered, took home a bucket of ice and a dinner for two at Denny's.

–Warren Tasker

THE 10 BEST HOLYFIELD-TYSON II NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

10. "Sucker Munch" (The Sun—London)
9. "Iron Mike Goes Down Biting" (The Sunday Oklahoman)
8. "A Two-Bit Bout: Holyfield Wins" (Kansas City Star)
7. "It's Tyson's Nature To (Ch)eat" (New York Post)
6. "Lobe Blow For Boxing" (The Tennessean)
5. "Tyson Doesn't Gnaw What's Next" (The Daily Oklahoman)
4. "Pay Per Chew" (Philadelphia Daily News)
3. "Bite Of The Century" (Arizona Republic)
2. "Ear-Responsible" (Fort Worth Star-Telegram)
1. "Requiem For A Chompion" (Philadelphia Daily News)


BITE OF THE CENTURY

CHOMP CHEATS CHAMP

Count Tyson leaves Holyfield unfulfilled

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
6-7-97	Jose Luis Lopez W 10 Aaron Davis	HBO	jm	B	B+	B+
Davis game, but fades in later rounds						
6-7-97	Ike Ibeabuchi W 12 David Tua	HBO	h	B	B	A
Unbeaten heavyweights fight at lightweights' pace						
6-8-97	Iran Barkley KO 10 Gerrie Coetzee	ESPN2	h	C-	C+	C-
The CompuBox boys fell asleep in round five—and still got the totals right						
6-10-97	Jesus Chavez W 12 John Brown	USA	NABF jl	B-	B+	B-
Brown in defensive mode; a bit more one-sided than we anticipated						
6-13-97	Goyo Vargas KO 9 Khalil Shakeel	Fox Sports	l	C-	C+	C-
Inexperienced Shakeel freezes up against former world champ						
6-14-97	James Toney W 12 Steve Little	CBS	c	B	B-	B
Battle of the Blimps; Little 16 pounds over previous career high						
6-14-97	**Dariusz Michalczewski W 12 Virgil Hill**	**ABC (tape)**	**WBA/IBF lh**	**A**	**A**	**B**
End of an era? Hill not only beaten, but beaten convincingly						
6-14-97	**Genaro Hernandez W 12 Anatoly Alexandrov**	**HBO**	**WBC jl**	**A-**	**B**	**C+**
If butts counted, Alexandrov would've scored a kayo						
6-14-97	**Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 David Kamau**	**HBO**	**WBC w**	**A**	**B**	**C+**
Oscar rediscovers devastating left hook						
6-15-97	Ross Puritty KO 10 Joe Hipp	CBS	h	C-	C	B
As usual, Hipp's face is fed through the meat-grinder						
6-15-97	Don Diego Poeder KO 10 Terry Ray	ESPN2	c	C+	B+	A-
Shifting momentum in typical Ray slugfest						
6-17-97	John Ruiz KO 1 Ray Anis	USA	NABF h	C+	C-	D
Kayo comes 22 seconds in; Steve Martinez-Ron Weaver should've been main event						
6-20-97	Michael Grant KO 10 Al Cole	ESPN	h	B	B+	B+
Breakthrough fight for Grant; Cole's chin too good for own good						
6-21-97	**Charles Brewer KO 5 Gary Ballard**	**Show**	**Vacant IBF sm**	**A-**	**B**	**B-**
Downed 30 seconds in, Ballard never recovers						
6-21-97	Frans Botha W 12 Lee Gilbert	Show	h	B	B	C
Must we witness every stop on the "White Buffalo's" road show?						
6-23-97	Arthur Johnson KO 12 Mike Trejo	Prime	NABF fl	C+	C+	B
Hard-luck Johnson risks world title shot and comes through						
6-24-97	Shannon Briggs KO 9 Jorge Valdes	USA	h	C+	B-	B-
Valdes game throughout; suffers dislocated jaw in ninth						
6-28-97	**Evander Holyfield W Disq. 3 Mike Tyson**	**PPV**	**WBA h**	**A+**	**A+**	**F**
"The Bite Of The Century" turns superfight into the ultimate bummer						
6-28-97	Julio Cesar Chavez W 10 Larry LaCoursiere	PPV	w	B+	C-	D
An occasional marathon runner, LaCoursiere engages in 30-minute sprint						
6-28-97	Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 3 Roberto Granciosa	PPV	jw	B	C-	C-
The easiest of pre-Chavez tuneups for Gonzalez						
6-28-97	Lonnie Bradley KO 8 John Williams	PPV	m	B	C-	C-
In bout made last-minute, novice Williams doesn't belong with Bradley						
6-28-97	Christy Martin KO 7 Andrea DeShong	PPV	jw	B-	B+	B
Martin wins bloody grudge match with superior firepower						
6-29-97	Angel Vazquez KO 3 Freddy Cruz	ESPN2	f	B-	C	C-
Another powerplay by Vazquez; Cruz strictly a loser now						
7-1-97	Israel Cardona KO 3 Ivan Robinson	USA	USBA l	B-	B+	B-
Who ever thought it would be a one-sided butt-kicking?						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

THE BOXING DOCKET

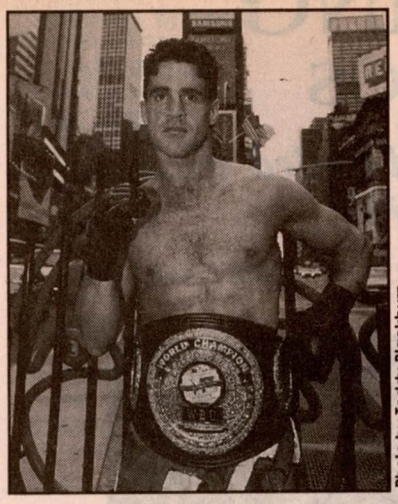
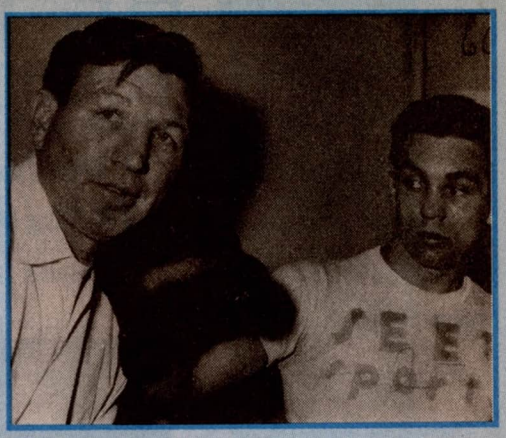


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Gamache: A domestic dispute

Former WBA junior lightweight and lightweight champion **Joey Gamache** has been charged with assault in a complaint lodged by a woman living at the same address in Lewiston, Maine. Police described it as a domestic dispute ... Light heavyweight contender **Michael Nunn** was arrested after allegedly insulting police officers who pulled him over for a traffic violation in Davenport, Iowa ... Former WBC heavyweight champion **Trevor Berbick** was arrested for probation violation at a Syracuse, New York, airport. Berbick was wanted in Florida for failure to make court-ordered payments for a previous probation violation related to a 1992 grand theft conviction ... The Maricopa County (Arizona) Attorney's Office is considering misdemeanor charges against **Michael Carbajal**. The former junior flyweight champion was arrested after an April 28 fight with an off-duty police officer. A grand jury chose not to indict Carbajal on felony charges ... British promoter **Frank Warren** was arrested by Customs officers in London and questioned about alleged evasion of taxes. Warren was held by the Customs and Excise National Investigation Service, which is looking into alleged non-payment of Value Added Tax.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



Thomas with featherweight great Howard Winstone

Eddie Thomas, 70, died of cancer. A legendary figure in his native Wales, the former British, European, and Empire welterweight champion turned to managing after his fighting days. He guided, among others, **Howard Winstone**, **Ken Buchanan**, and **Colin Jones** ... Former junior middleweight champion **Ki Soo Kim**, 57, died of liver cancer in Seoul. South Korea's first world champion, Kim won the 154-pound crown from **Nino Benvenuti** in 1966. He made four defenses before losing the title to **Sandro Mazzinghi.** His career mark: 33-2-2 (18).

THE PUNCHLINES

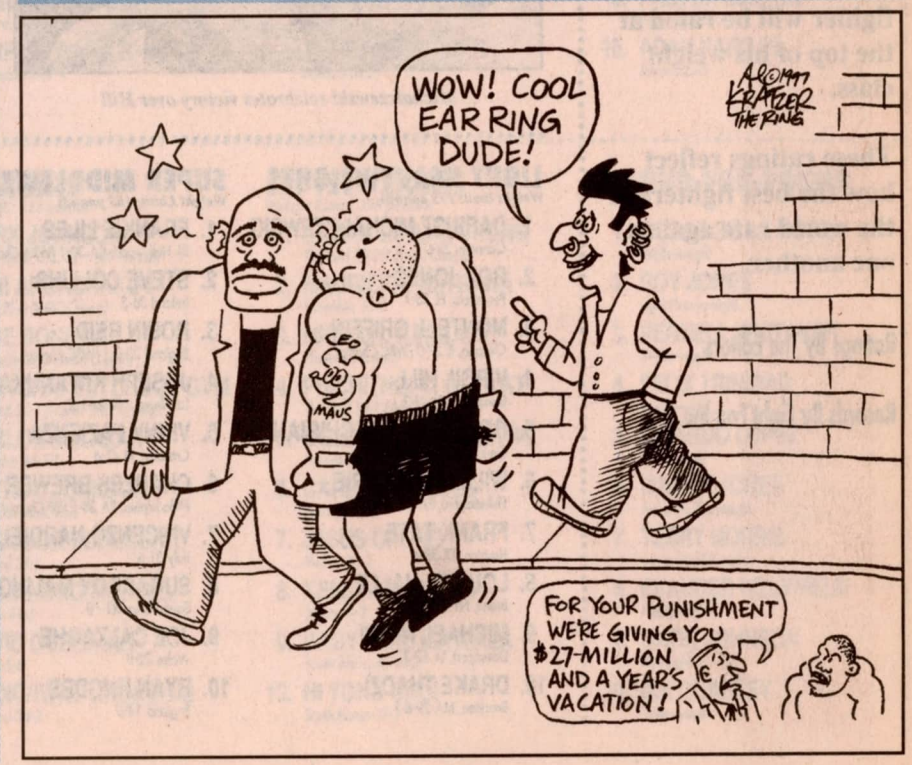
"I have something Evander needs."

–Mitchell Libonati, an employee of the MGM Grand, to members of Team Holyfield after finding a piece of the heavyweight champion's ear near "The Real Deal's" corner.

"We've all heard of a 'hungry' fighter. But never one who tried to eat his opponent. It was such a shocking bit of cannibalism, they decided to halt the proceedings before Tyson tried to put him in a pot."

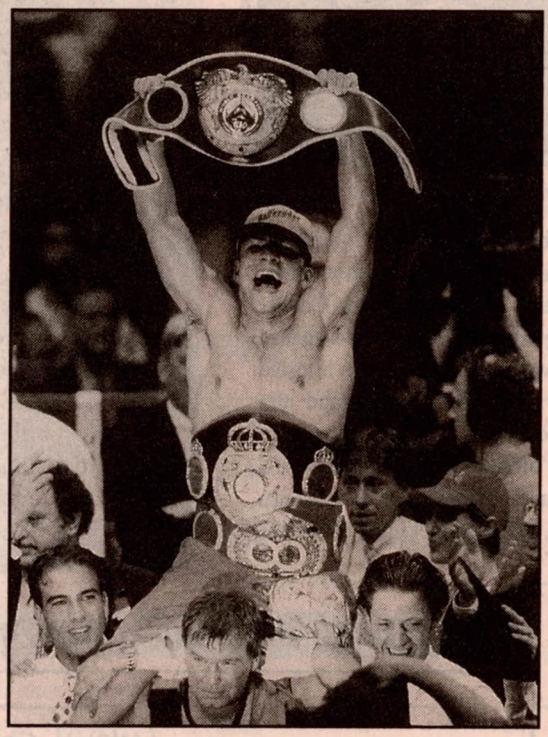
–Jim Murray, columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended July 10, 1997



Michalczewski celebrates victory over Hill

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *34-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *30-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *38-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *28-2*
5. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ *24-4-1*
6. **HENRY AKINWANDE** England *31-0-1*
7. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *27-1*
8. **TIM WITHERSPOON** Philadelphia, PA *45-5*
9. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Marshall, TX *76-4*
10. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *17-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *29-4 (WBA Champ)*
2. **URIAH GRANT** Miami, FL *26-12 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *21-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *26-4-2*
5. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *36-1*
6. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *36-3-1*
7. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *38-2*
8. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *19-0*
9. **TORSTEN MAY** Germany *16-1*
10. **JAMES TONEY** Ann Arbor, MI *56-4-2*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *34-0*
2. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *34-1*
3. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-2*
5. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *38-4-1*
6. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *23-0*
7. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *38-4*
8. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *25-1*
9. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *52-3*
10. **DRAKE THADZI** Brockton, MA *29-8-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *30-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **STEVE COLLINS** Ireland *36-3*
3. **ROBIN REID** England *23-0-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV *24-1-2*
5. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *41-6*
6. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *28-5 (IBF Champ)*
7. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *31-6*
8. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *41-10*
9. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *22-0*
10. **RYAN RHODES** England *14-0*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *31-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *29-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *24-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *26-0-1*
5. **DANA ROSENBLATT** Malden, MA *29-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *28-1-1*
7. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *28-0*
8. **BRIAN BARBOSA** Providence, RI *23-3*
9. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *24-1-1*
10. **PAUL VADEN** San Diego, CA *27-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *45-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *35-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *57-3*
4. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *37-1*
5. **RAUL MARQUEZ**
   Houston, TX *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *32-2*
7. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
   Orlando, FL *64-3*
8. **EMMETT LINTON**
   Tacoma, WA *23-2*
9. **GUILLERMO JONES**
   Panama *21-0*
10. **DAVIDE CIARLANTE**
    Italy *22-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *25-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *40-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *39-3-1*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *39-2*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER**
   France *25-4*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *24-2-1*
9. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *67-2*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV**
    Russia *20-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *36-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *30-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *99-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *42-1*
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *18-1-1*
6. **RAY OLIVEIRA**
   New Bedford, MA *30-5*
7. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *53-5-1*
8. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Studio City, CA *48-3*
9. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY *40-4*
10. **SOREN SONDERGAARD**
    Denmark *31-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *24-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *21-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **GEORGE SCOTT**
   Pembroke Pines, FL *31-1*
5. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *23-0*
6. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana *39-4-2*
7. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT *26-2*
8. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *49-6-2*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *42-4*
10. **ARTUR GRIGORJAN**
    Uzbekistan *22-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *36-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *23-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *28-0*
5. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *34-0-1*
6. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *58-5-1*
7. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *44-3*
8. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *20-2-1*
9. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *21-1*
10. **JUSTIN JUUKO**
    England *28-1-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *41-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *45-3-1*
4. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *50-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *47-1-2*
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *20-1*
7. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *36-2*
8. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *40-2*
9. **ANGEL VASQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *15-0*
10. **DERRICK GAINER**
    Pensacola, FL *19-4*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *43-2*
2. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *55-7-3 (WBC Champ)*
3. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *32-2 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *43-2*
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *26-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *20-1*
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *31-3-1*
8. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *26-0*
9. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *21-0*
10. **ANGEL CHACON**
    Puerto Rico *23-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *36-1*
3. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASUK**
   Thailand *15-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *37-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *20-0*
6. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *11-1*
7. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *59-6-1*
8. **ROBBIE REGAN**
   Wales *17-2-3*
9. **PASTOR MAURIN**
   Argentina *34-0*
10. **ADAN VARGAS**
    Mexico *23-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *39-0-2*
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *30-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *36-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *13-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-6*
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *21-2*
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
8. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *22-1-1*
9. **RATANACHAI SOR VORAPIN**
   Thailand *22-3*
10. **ANDY AGOSTO**
    Puerto Rico *14-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *31-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *22-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *26-1 (Interim WBC Champ)*
5. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina *44-7-3*
6. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   East St. Louis, IL *15-3*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *26-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *33-3*
9. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France *5-0*
10. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
    Thailand *34-2*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *16-0*
3. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *44-3*
4. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *18-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *49-5-4*
6. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *31-3*
7. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico *31-7*
8. **KEIJI YAMAGUCHI**
   Japan *21-2*
9. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *45-10-2*
10. **HI YONG CHOI**
    South Korea *19-2*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
6. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Junior Featherweight
7. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Junior Middleweight
8. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
9. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Flyweight
10. **IKE QUARTEY**
    Welterweight

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Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

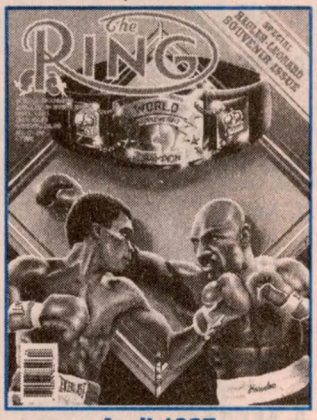
July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.



April 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Biast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando

Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

Feb. 1995: Return To Greatness? Mike Tyson Doesn't Know His Future ... But *The Ring* Does! Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Lennox Lewis, Mark Johnson, Orlando Canizales, Tom Johnson, Irving Cohen.

March 1995 (92-Page Special): Through The Years: The Incredible Career(s) Of George Foreman. Plus: Jones-Toney, Ali in China, Chiquita-Carbajal III, Hank Kaplan.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Sept. 1995: Bona Fide Superstar: Oscar Is The Boxer For The '90s. Plus: George Foreman, Danny Romero, Vincent Pettway, Lou Ambers, George Latka, What If ... McCallum-Hearns.

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Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: Go East, Young Man: Oscar De La Hoya—Making All The Right Moves Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruno & Eubank, who's hot & who's not, Eddie Perkins.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 19[illegible] A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... [illegible] Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Rober[illegible]ran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Holiday 1996 (92-Page Special): Tyson-Holyfield. Finally! Plus: Ali, Paz-Rosenblatt, 100 greatest title fights of all-time, Stillman's gym.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

Feb. 1997: Holyfield Of Dreams ... And Grim Reality For Iron Mike. Plus: Roy Jones, Ike Quartey, 10 fighters to watch, Joey Giambra, Washington-May, Fred Apostoli.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Aug. 1997: Keep Your Word, Oscar ... Give "Sweet Pea" A Rematch! Plus: Shane Mosley, Tony Zale, Holyfield-Tyson II preview, Montell Griffin, Red Cochrane.

Sept. 1997: (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

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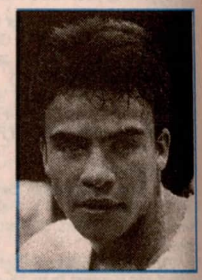
NEW FACES

A LOOK BACK

Compiled By Steve Farhood

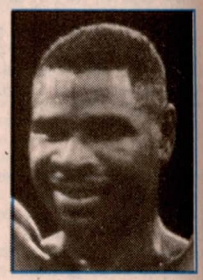
What have our most recent "New Faces" been doing since being featured in THE RING? An update:

Billy Irwin, lightweight (September 1996 issue): This Irish-Canadian pressure fighter is perfect for TV, but he seems to lack class. Since appearing in THE RING, he's split a pair of fights with David Tetteh and barely beaten the unaccomplished Andre Cray. **Record: 21-1 (13).**



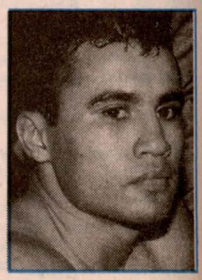
Juan Manuel Marquez, featherweight (October 1996 issue): Arguably the most talented fighter in this bunch, Marquez has scored several noteworthy wins, including triumphs over Darryl Pinckney, Cedric Mingo, and Agapito Sanchez. A sure bet to win a world title. **Record: 20-1 (14).**

Tarick Salmaci, junior middleweight (November 1996 issue): Lots of changes here: Now campaigning at super middleweight, Salmaci is managed by Sterling McPherson, trained by Jesse Robinson, and promoted by Frank Warren. He fought only once in 1996, and a broken bone near his left thumb has limited him to one fight so far this year (KO 10 Jerry Cheatham). **Record: 16-0 (6).**

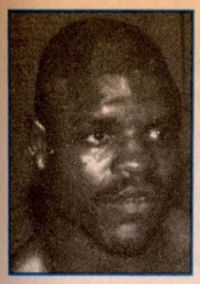


Glen Johnson, middleweight (December 1996 issue): The Floridian fought Bernard Hopkins for the IBF middleweight title in July, but lost by 11th-round stoppage. Johnson showed a lot of heart and good conditioning, but Hopkins dominated the fight, although he didn't drop Johnson, who suffered his first loss. **Record: 32-1 (22).**

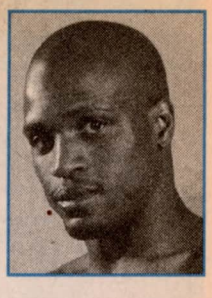
Dale Brown, cruiserweight (Holiday 1996 issue): In May, the Canadian cruiser cleared up a 1996 technical draw with Brian LaSpada by halting his rival in eight rounds. With the victory came the NABF title, which Brown is scheduled to defend against Dan Ward. Manager Don Lalonde wants more pro experience for Brown. A world title shot is still 12-18 months away. **Record: 12-0-1 (10).**



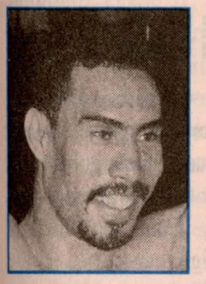
Jesus Chavez, featherweight (January 1997 issue): Now the NABF junior lightweight champ, Chavez has skyrocketed into contender status with steamrolling wins over Louie Leija, Louie Espinoza, and John Brown. He recently signed with Main Events, so look for a title shot real soon. **Record: 20-1 (11).**



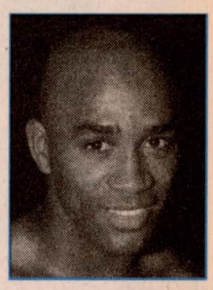
Jerry Ballard, heavyweight (February 1997 issue): The heavy hitter is playing the waiting game; he's been promised the winner of the WBO title fight between Herbie Hide and Tony Tucker. Wins over Vincent Boulware (KO 2) and Lyle McDowell (KO 7) have been time-killers. **Record: 18-1 (18).**



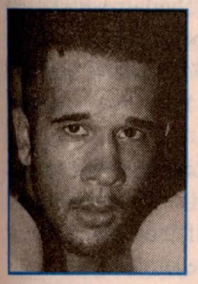
Mark Lewis, welterweight (March 1997 issue): As of early-June, Lewis had engaged in only one fight this year, a revenge kayo of Joel Garcia, one of the two fighters to have beaten him. An injury to his right hand led to his inactivity. A tweener, the Californian is planning to campaign at junior welter. **Record: 16-2 (13).**



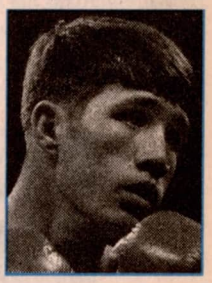
Angel Vazquez, featherweight (April 1997 issue): Vazquez' power hasn't gone unnoticed. He's added a kayo of spoiler Darryl Pinckney, and before the year is out, look for him to graduate from the USA Network to CBS and ABC, or even HBO. **Record: 14-0 (12).**



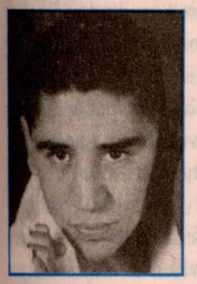
Joel Casamayor, junior lightweight (May 1997 issue): The Cuban is developing much more rapidly than countryman and fellow defector Ramon Garbey. Casamayor, who is promoted by Main Events, has already fought on CBS. Look for him to move to 10-rounders by the end of the year. **Record: 5-0 (4).**



Daniel Santos, welterweight (June 1997 issue): Billed as a southpaw version of Thomas Hearns, Puerto Rico's Santos scored seven consecutive kayos before going the distance in his three most recent bouts. In May, the 5'11" banger survived a scare, climbing off the canvas to outpoint Edgardo Vazquez. Look for him to jump to junior middle real soon. **Record: 10-0 (7).**



Brandon Mitchem, welterweight (July 1997 issue): Only 19, Mitchem has already moved up to junior middleweight. He's still a six-round fighter, and look for trainer Eddie Futch to move him slowly. "Technically," says Mat Tinley of America Presents, which promotes Mitchem, "you couldn't find a prettier boxer. If he has a weakness, it's his punch." **Record: 9-0 (4).**



Willie Jorrin, featherweight (August 1997 issue): In his first bout after returing from a hairline fracture in his left hand, Jorrin floored and outpointed tough Mexican Enrique Jupiter on the Ike Ibeabuchi-David Tua undercard. He's changed trainers, jumping from Don Conley to Al LaGardo. Jorrin is hoping for a shot at Junior Jones. **Record: 17-0 (9).**

Vassiliy Jirov, cruiserweight (September 1997 issue): Promoter Bob Arum has been frequently featuring this Phoenix-based Olympic gold medalist from Kazakhstan. But as evidenced by Jirov's most recent victim, Gesses Mesgana (5-6-1 going in), his comp hasn't been that tough. **Record: 7-0 (7).**

Freeman Barr, middleweight (October 1997 issue): Just before we went to press with his profile, Barr stopped Roosevelt Booth in six rounds. Look for him to continue campaigning in Florida, with a world title shot at least a year away. **Record: 13-1 (6).** ■

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

AND ISN'T IT IRONIC?

Your worldly (or is that wordy?) columnist can't honestly say he had never before seen a ring warrior try to bite his way out of a bad situation, the way Mike Tyson did against Evander Holyfield. There was, after all, wrestling wildman George "The Animal" Steele going orally overboard on more than a few occasions. But say this for The Animal: Although his green tongue, guttural grunts, and ungroomed back hair made him truly repulsive, the guy was at least civilized enough to gnaw a chunk out of the turnbuckle pad, not Bruno Sammartino's right ear.

In the most critical battle of his career, Leg-Iron Mike fought as though he was more interested in solidifying his thug image than his place in history. Perhaps he felt the second biggest jerk in the heavyweight division, Riddick Bowe, had gained on him in the past year with those fold-ups against Andrew Golota, the rioting entourage, the Marine misadventure, and that slugfest with Sis. So Tyson, never one to be upstaged, was determined to go out there and sin one for The Gipper.

The chump's chomp of the champ proved once again that just when you think you've seen it all in boxing, you discover that you ain't seen nothing yet. "The Sound And The Fury" was a fight full of controversy and high drama, but plenty of irony, too. For instance …

Tyson's bite was no spontaneous eruption: On June 1, sprinter Michael Johnson pulled up lame less than halfway through his 150-meter race with Donovan Bailey to determine the world's fastest human. Though Johnson said he hurt his quadriceps muscle, many observers felt he quit as soon as he fell behind in order to avoid having the world see that his best wasn't good enough.

Count me among those people who think Tyson pulled a Michael Johnson on June 28, that he brought with him into the battle an escape plan, just in case. By getting himself DQ'd for a truly brutal action, Tyson was able to quit, but without tarnishing the image he cherishes most—that of a badass. His actions indicated No Mas, but he got referee Mills Lane to say the words for him.

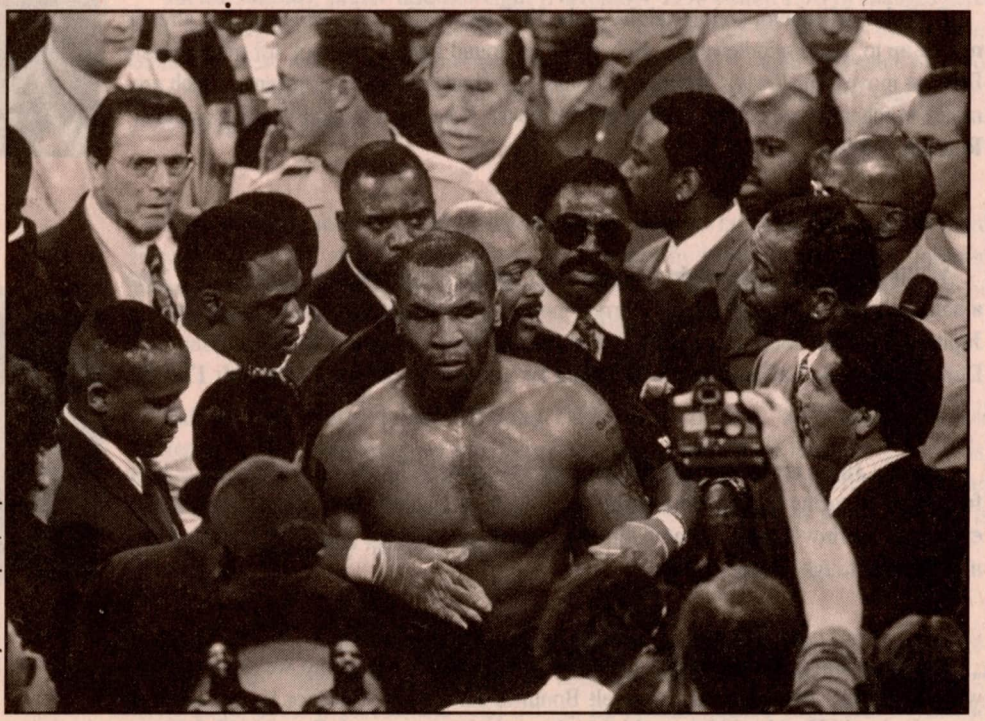


Photo by Jamie Squire/Allsport

Thug or pug? Always-controversial Mike Tyson didn't win any new fans with his outrageous behavior during his June rematch with Evander Holyfield—unless you count Dr. Hannibal Lecter.

And yet: Tyson surrendered at a time when it was hardly a certainty—despite what some revisionist historians wrote—that he was on his way to a worse beating than the one he received last November. Though Tyson lost the first two rounds, he clearly won the third, and was displaying head movement not seen from

him in years. As a result, Holyfield missed many punches and looked sloppy even when controlling the action. Do I think Tyson was going to be kayoed eventually? Yes. But Holyfield was going to have to fight much better than he did in the first quarter of the bout.

It's strange how the mind of a bully works. As in the case of Holyfield-Tyson II, when Sonny Liston quit on his stool in his first meeting with Cassius Clay, and when Roberto Duran walked away from Sugar Ray Leonard, the bouts were fairly close. But regardless of what the scorecards said, the bullies saw, felt, or sensed something that convinced them their doom was sealed. What took Tyson's heart away probably wasn't the shot Holyfield staggered him with in the opening round, but the fact that he landed some crackling bombs of his own on "The Real Deal" and nothing happened.

We never thought we'd run this picture in one of our boxing magazines, but as columnist Ryan points out, professional wrestler George "The Animal" Steele has more in common with Mike Tyson than you might expect.

Tyson continues to reinvent himself as a hated figure: Stupid me. There was a time when I thought Tyson couldn't sink any lower than he did when he made fun of Tyrell Biggs, saying that his vanquished challenger was "screaming like a woman" when he was hit to the body. Of course, that was one rape conviction and one attempted ear amputation ago.

Tyson can't get rendered woozy enough times in his career to suit me. Because the whole Tyson Experience also includes Don King and a collection of punk hangers-on with big mouths, one would be hard-pressed to name a pro athlete who has ever been as difficult to stomach as the sockless socker. At this point, defending his actions is like insisting O.J. Simpson is innocent. Anyone who does so doesn't believe a word he is saying, and is merely trying to advance an agenda or get a rise out of those around him.

And yet: Tyson was willing to publicly apologize for his actions against Holyfield, vowing not to contest his punishment, and promising to seek help for his behavior. Was Tyson being sincere? Maybe not, but he at least did *say* he was sorry, humbling himself for four minutes while every network from CNN to ESPN2 broke into its programming to cover the moment live.

Where was Duran's apology after he ripped us off with *his* quit job? Did a woefully undertrained Buster Douglas ever say he was sorry for taking a $24-million flabby flop against Holyfield? Did Leonard apologize for hiding an injury from the ticket-buying public before meeting Hector Camacho?

History won't be kind to Tyson: Barring some kind of magnificent rebound, Tyson will probably be remembered as an intimidating presence who packed tremendous power, dominated the division when it was weak, and always fell apart when faced with adversity. He was more than just a media creation; knockouts of numerous granite chins attest to that. But we are definitely talking about someone who would have spent more time in the loss column than the gossip column had he fought in the era of Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Earnie Shavers, and Ron Lyle.

And yet: Tyson is an automatic Hall of Famer on the basis of what he did before he went to prison in 1992: unifying the heavyweight crown for the first time in nine years, winning his first 37 bouts, crushing Michael Spinks, and singlehandedly reviving interest in the game. Moreover, "The Bite Of The Century" should prove to be great for Tyson's earning power when he returns from suspension. People will want to watch him, even if it's to pray that he gets clobbered. Those doomsayers who are declaring this the end of Tyson's career are dreaming. Imagine the interest in a Tyson-Andrew Golota matchup, especially if the promoters played up the angle of a war between two guys who are capable of resorting to any kind of mayhem. And do you really think Holyfield-Tyson III wouldn't sell?

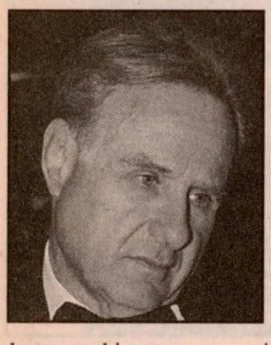
Boxing is repulsed by Tyson's latest antics, and rightfully so. But there is sometimes very little distinction between repulsion and propulsion in the fight game. If this latest fiasco doesn't end up making some people richer than they would have been had Tyson kept his jaws shut, it will be the biggest boxing surprise of the decade.

Bank on this: One day in the future, Tyson's name will be on a $20-million contract, his face will be on a fight poster, and King, without even having to resort to the tactics of his riskiest investment, will be bleeding all of *our* ears once more. ■

THE RING'S QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Compiled by Thad Moore

Q: WOULD A PHILLIPS-TSZYU REMATCH IN AUSTRALIA GO DIFFERENTLY THAN THE FIRST FIGHT?

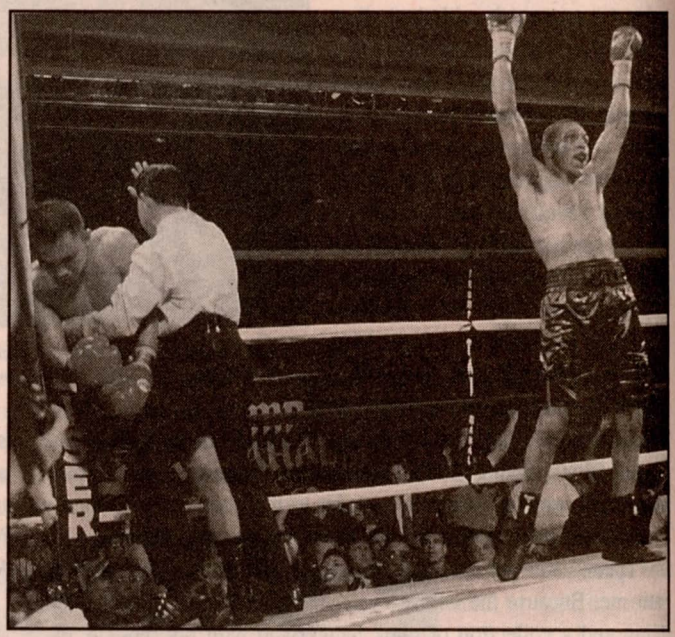


Larry Merchant, HBO analyst: "Phillips has fought strong welterweights in recent years. At 140, he was at his best. Tszyu's strength is that he is a real force in the ring. He has a great deal of physical strength and strength of will. He's an aggressive fighter. Fighters like that are exposed to danger if they fight someone who has something to answer with.

"Can Tszyu improve defensively and still remain aggressive? I don't know if he can. He did a lot of things right in the last fight. That fight suggested he would have real trouble with strong welterweights.

"Phillips should get himself in the same condition as the first fight. We don't know how he'll deal with being a champion. If Phillips got the chance to fight Tszyu the first time because he fought well, then Tszyu deserves another chance. They should fight each other again. It's a fight I'd like to see.

"Tszyu's supporters probably claimed he took Phillips lightly. They would feel Tszyu would be more successful in a rematch, especially in Australia. If the fight happens in Australia, Tszyu would be the favorite. If the fight was held in the U.S., oddswise it would be an even fight."



Will Vince Phillips be able to repeat his stoppage victory over Kostya Tszyu if the rematch is held in Australia? Figure it to be a pick-'em fight.

Q: DOES MARK JOHNSON DESERVE TO BE RANKED IN THE POUND-FOR-POUND TOP 10?

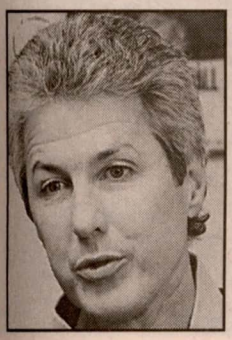
Fernando Paramo, analyst for Fox Sports and Prime: "Johnson is one of the top fighters in the world. He has been tested and he's proven himself. He's very fast and busy in the ring. He's at the top of his game. He's cleaned out the division and won the respect by beating everyone he's fought.

"Johnson can box well, but he's really a boxer-puncher. He's a very good puncher. He has everything. He can jab and he's also picked up a body attack that he didn't used to have. He has a tremendous left cross, and he throws uppercuts and hooks. He has total ringmanship. He's a great fighter.

"He's an exciting fighter as a southpaw, as opposed to Pernell Whitaker. They used to talk about him fighting Chiquita Gonzalez. Unfortunately for him, it never materialized. The best fight for him out there would be against Ricardo Lopez. He's at the brink now, but there really isn't anyone out there for him to fight."

What do boxing's insiders think of the hot issues? Each month, we'll come up with four questions, then grill the experts. If there's a topic you'd like examined, send your question to The Ring, Questions Of The Month, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034

Q: IF PERNELL WHITAKER AND TERRY NORRIS FIGHT AT 150 POUNDS, HOW MUCH OF A THREAT WILL WHITAKER BE TO WIN?



Alex Wallau, analyst for ABC: "Are Whitaker's best days behind him? Yes. Are Norris'? Yes. Pernell made De La Hoya look ordinary, but this fight would take place above his natural weight. Terry has had his biggest problem with punchers, and Pernell is definitely not that. Neither fighter has a rock-solid chin. If Terry wins, he wins by knockout. If Pernell wins, he wins by decision.

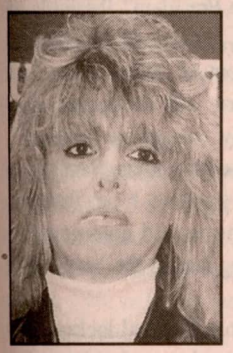
"Pernell is the outstanding defensive fighter of his time. You can't discount him in any fight. While Pernell makes you miss, he has to land punches of his own. He will have to find a way to do that against Terry.

"Will Terry get frustrated trying to land his jab and not let his hands go? Terry's very quick and punches hard with his straight right down the pike. Terry doesn't like southpaws. That would be in Pernell's favor.

"Terry may not be a full 154-pounder, but I don't know if he wants to make 150. As for Pernell, he was at his best at 135.

"At this stage of his career, I find it tough to believe that Pernell can reach the same level as the De La Hoya fight. I think he would have trouble reaching that peak again against Norris. I would probably pick Norris to win. He's more comfortable at that weight."

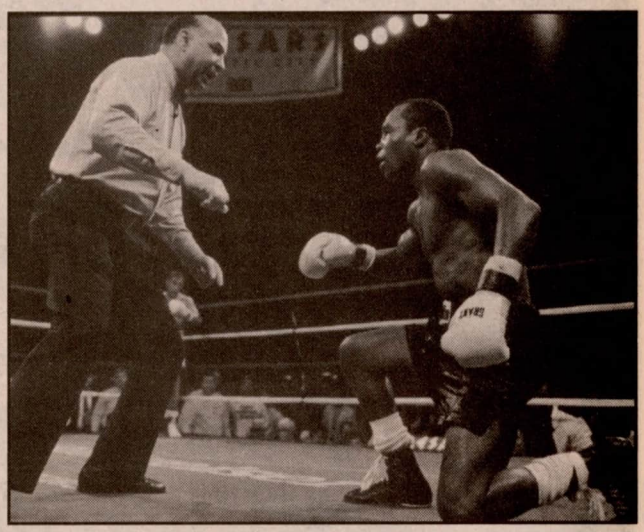
Q: HOW MUCH WILL AN EXTENDED SUGAR RAY LEONARD COMEBACK AFFECT THE WAY HE WILL BE VIEWED?



Jackie Kallen, manager: "Leonard is such a bright, talented guy. I think it affects his marketability if he comes back and gets knocked around. I don't know what can be gained by it except for a financial gain. What does it prove if he keeps beating lesser-known fighters? If he beats a guy we never heard of, that doesn't improve his status as far as how we view him.

"This is a guy who beat Hagler, Hearns, and Duran. He's such an icon in boxing. When Ali came back to fight Holmes, it was difficult to see him take the pounding. I would hate to see the same thing happen to Leonard.

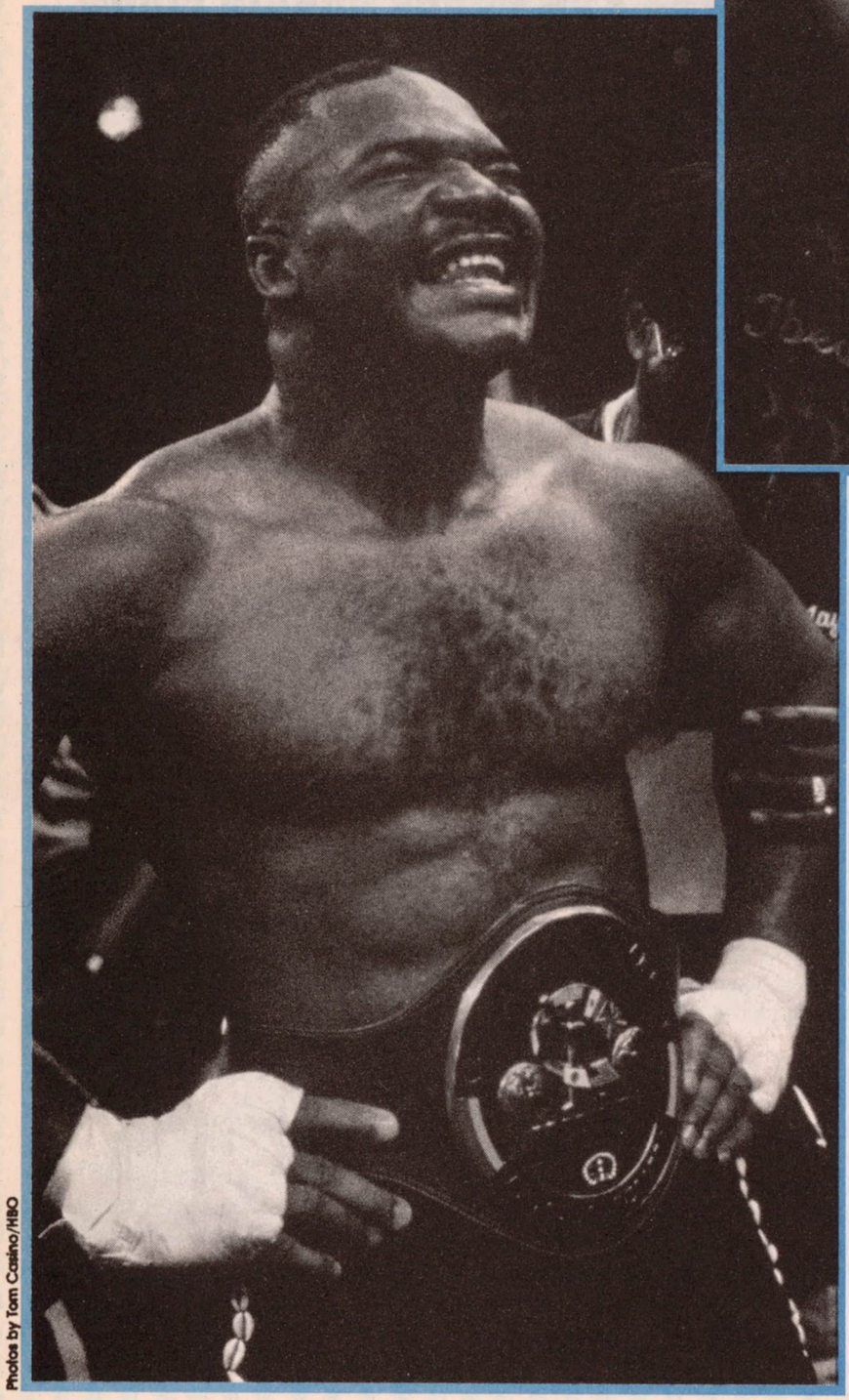
"It is my opinion that the great champs of the past should quit while they're ahead, before they become just a name on someone's record. That goes for Tommy Hearns and Roberto Duran, too. Duran was a great champion, but that was 20 years ago. These fighters are older now. They can get beat by a fighter who couldn't shine their shoes 20 years ago.



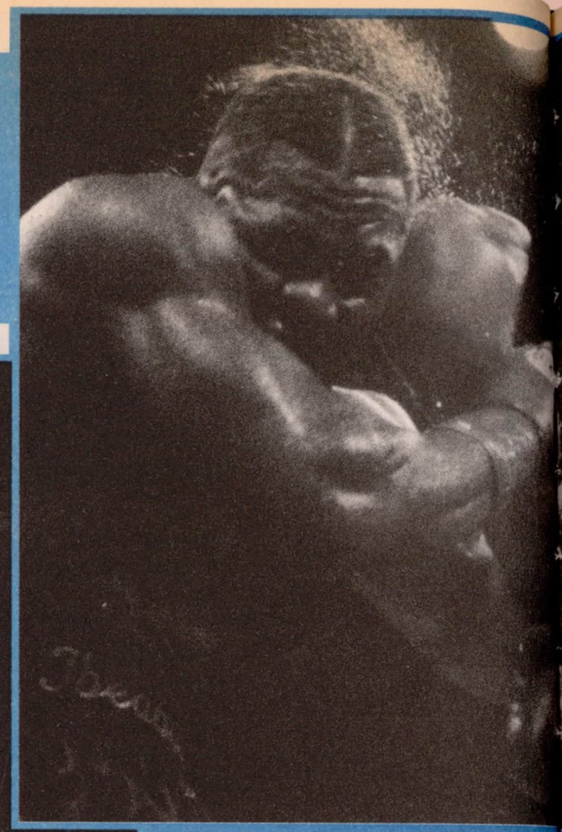
Did you think you'd ever see five-division champion Sugar Ray Leonard get knocked down and stopped by a singles hitter like Hector Camacho? No matter. Sugar Ray plans to keep on fighting.

"Leonard continuing to fight won't improve his place in boxing history. It can only tarnish his image." ■

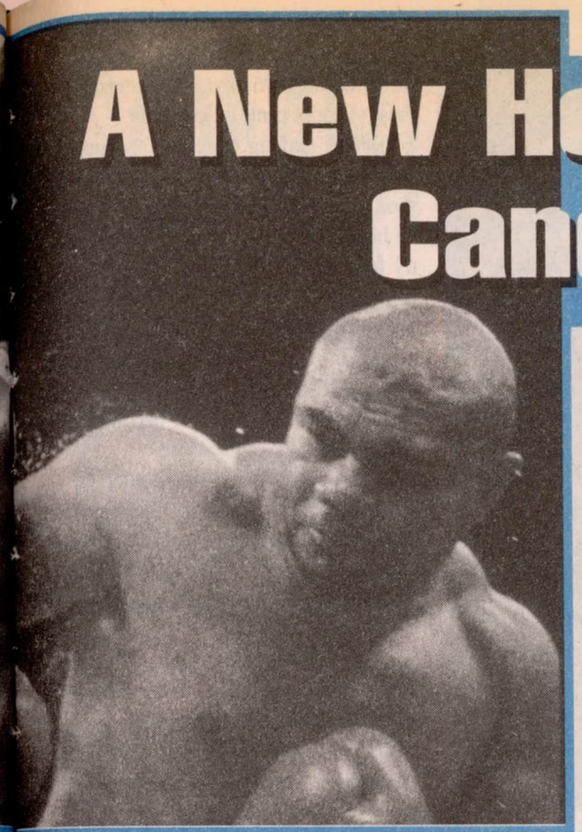
IKE "THE PRESIDENT" IBEABUCHI



Photos by Tom Casino/HBO



A New Heavyweight Candidate



Ibeabuchi absorbed Tua's biggest bombs, something the Samoan's most recent opponents had been unable to do. Their 12-round battle was one of the best heavyweight rumbles in years.

By Robert Mladinich

It was a fight that at first glance did not raise a lot of eyebrows. The star of the show was David "The Terminator" Tua, the heavy-handed and undefeated heavyweight who was being groomed for superstardom by HBO. Tua's opponent was Ike "The President" Ibeabuchi, an inexperienced 24-year-old Nigerian who was fighting out of Dallas, Texas. As is usually the case with anonymous opponents, nobody outside of Ibeabuchi's small but close-knit boxing family gave him an iota of a chance. It was Ibeabuchi, however, who would emerge as the newest shining star in the heavyweight division.

The fact that Tua had looked somewhat lackluster in scoring late-round knockouts of David Izonritei and Oleg Maskaev only lent more credence to the assumption that Ibeabuchi was nothing more than fodder. Tua, after all, was a fledgling star who had displayed overwhelming power in devastating first-round knockouts over the very credible John Ruiz and Darroll Wilson. He needed desperately to get back on an early-knockout roll.

Prior to the Izonritei fight last December, Tua was being compared to a young Mike Tyson. In amassing a record of 27-0 (23), he had scored 11 first-round knockouts. The only heavyweight champion with a better percentage at the 27-fight mark was Tyson, with 15 first-round knockouts. (Rocky Marciano and George Foreman registered seven apiece, Jack Dempsey six, and Joe Frazier five.)

According to Gregory Juckett, a publicist for Cedric Kushner Promotions, which guides Ibeabuchi, the Nigerian was selected as a Tua opponent only because the rest of the Kushner stable of heavyweights was refused. "We offered them everybody, [including] Obed Sullivan, Corrie Sanders, Larry Donald, and Zeljko Mavrovic, and they were all turned down," said Juckett. "It seems like the only reason Ike was picked was because he had a good record and nobody expected him to win."

In improving to 17-0 (12), Ibeabuchi advanced from fighting inconsequential opponents in obscure locations to beating the most touted prospect in the division. It was an upset of major proportions, and one that turned The President into an overnight star and a major player in the heavyweight sweepstakes.

"I wasn't surprised by the victory at all," said Ibeabuchi. "I was never so relaxed or confident in any of my 16 previous fights. I knew that if it went one round or 12 rounds that I would be the winner. There is no fighter in the world who puts the amount of work I do into boxing."

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At a well-chiseled 235 pounds, the 6'2" Ibeabuchi is a physical force. Averaging 80 punches per round, he used a ramrod jab and a full repertoire of head and bodyblows to befuddle Tua for much of the fight. For his part, Tua wasn't exactly inert. The 1,730 punches thrown by the two is a heavyweight record, at least since CompuBox has been keeping statistics. The previous mark of 1,591 punches thrown was set by Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in "The Thrilla In Manila," which went 14 rounds.

Tua-Ibeabuchi was a seesaw battle that could have gone either way. Ibeabuchi won the first four rounds by utilizing a brilliant jab, as well as a diverse mix of powerpunches. He used his massive shoulders deceptively well to keep the oncoming Tua in check. In each of the first four rounds, Ibeabuchi threw more than 90 punches. Between the second and third rounds, Tua co-trainer Ronnie Shields screamed that Ibeabuchi would not be able to keep up the torrid pace. He was wrong.

Tua won several of the subsequent rounds, mainly because of his tremendous physical condition and even more impressive emotional resolve. On occasion, he battered Ibeabuchi, who showed resilience by refusing to fold or retreat, even for an instant. Ibeabuchi's offense was the bedrock for his defense. That, coupled with Tua's intensity and tenacity, made the slugfest a candidate for Fight of the Year.

Nobody seemed to have too much difficulty accepting the unanimous verdict for Ibeabuchi, but there was no shortage of critics who lambasted the scoring. To most observers, this one included, the fight seemed much closer than scores of 117-111 (Dick Young) and 116-113 (Rudy Jordan) indicated. Hank Elespuru had it a more reasonable 115-114. THE RING scored for Tua by 115-114.

"We thought we won, but knew the fight was awfully close," said Carl Moretti, the matchmaker for Tua's promoter, Main Events. "We certainly couldn't understand losing by six points on one card. You have to give Ike credit, though. He stepped up to the plate when a lot of other fighters wouldn't. But David didn't diminish himself at all. He feels he won, but he's not the type of guy to throw chairs around when things don't go his way. I just feel sorry for his next opponent."

Ibeabuchi is looking ahead as well. "I'm on a mission to become heavyweight champion of the world," he said. "Let's see someone stand up to The President. It's time for me to step up now. It doesn't matter who I fight. I can box or brawl, do whatever I have to do to win. The spirit of God is with me throughout all my fights.

"I want Chris Byrd, Hasim Rahman, Andrew Golota, any of those guys. I cannot believe the difference in the quality of fighter that I used to be and the quality of fighter I am now. All of my hard work has done so much for my confidence and morale."

"I have been with Ike since 1993, and have never seen a man work harder in the gym than he does," said former world welterweight champion Curtis Cokes, who serves as Ibeabuchi's trainer and adviser. "He's in the gym six to seven days a week and does the whole process. Sometimes I want him to cut it down so as not to wear his body down, but I have to run him out of the gym.

Photo by Tom Casino/HBO

When battling Tua in phone booth warfare, Ibeabuchi was competitive. Tua, it turned out, needed room to extend his arms and connect with his powershots.

Sometimes you want him to eat a candy bar so he can feel what's it like to get out of shape."

When Cokes first started working with Ibeabuchi, he was a bit of a project. "Early on, he was a little awkward, and I had to take him to school," said Cokes. "A lot of fighters are resistant to that, but he never was. His mind is like a sponge when it comes to boxing.

"I used to have him boxing with Kirk Johnson [the undefeated heavyweight prospect whom Cokes once trained], and Kirk would bust him up. But the very next day Ike would come back to the gym and, as inexperienced as he was, bust Johnson up. He just gets better and better and better. Anybody that underestimates him is a fool. I tried to keep him a secret as long as I could, but after beating Tua, the secret is out. Everybody knows how good he is now."

Although HBO Sports Vice President Lou DiBella had invested a lot of time, money, and effort into making Tua a bona fide attraction, he wasn't particularly disappointed in the fight. "Did Ike's stock go up?" he asked emphatically. "Absolutely. Did Tua's stock go down? Not a bit. Tua stays a top prospect, maybe even *the* top prospect, and Ike becomes a top prospect. This is not a big step down for Tua, but a major step up for Ike. There is no question about that. You can't ask for anything more in a heavyweight fight than what you got there. This fight will only enhance both of their careers.

"I think Ike would make most people's top-10 list. He certainly makes mine. He is a fresh face who I think will be a champion within a few years. Some of these organizations rate guys like Herbie Hide, Tony Tucker, Mark Randazzo, and Gerrie Coetzee in their top 10. I'd rather have an unknown with as much talent as Ike in my top 10 anytime over a bunch of retreads who don't really want to fight."

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From all indications, Ibeabuchi, while an extremely articulate, sensible, and God-fearing man, loves to fight. He emigrated to the United States in 1993, joining his mother, Patsy, who had come to Dallas 10 years earlier and was employed as a private nurse. Blessed with an inordinate degree of natural athleticism, he had been a nationally renowned soccer player in his native country. Although he had taken up boxing only as a teenager, success on the domestic level came quickly. After only a handful of fights, he twice defeated countryman Duncan Dokiwari, who would go on to win a bronze medal at the 1996 Olympic Games. One of those victories came by knockout.

Before leaving Nigeria, Ibeabuchi finished high school and attended college for a short time. By the time he arrived in Texas, he had already made a steadfast decision to try to attain the American dream as a prize fighter. "My confidence level is so high because I work so hard," he said. "I have a good team, and we work so good together. My goal is to become heavyweight champion of the world, and I *will* become heavyweight champion of the world."

Through friends of his mother, he was steered to Cokes, who is the premier boxing man in Dallas. They immediately hit it off, and since their initial meeting, Ibeabuchi has trained at the House of Champions in the neighborhood of Oak Cliff. (The gym is also home to such former champions as Quincy Taylor and Troy Dorsey.) At the start, Cokes saw not only an abundance of raw talent, but a style well-suited for the professional ranks. The trainer was wise and patient enough, however, to realize that as exciting as Ibeabuchi could be, he was still green. Although the fighter was more than eager to get punch for pay, his sensibility was such that he was not the least bit perturbed when Cokes suggested he spend one more year picking up invaluable experience in the amateurs. Ibeabuchi went on to win the Dallas regional Golden Gloves title and the Texas State championship in 1994.

The President turned pro in October of that year and has been busy ever since. He began by making quick work of the standard non-entities on the Texas and Louisiana circuits, scoring eight knockouts in his first 10 fights. He started to create a bit of a buzz by appearing regularly as a preliminary fighter on Kushner's *Heavyweight Explosion* series. Although he certainly was not fighting anyone capable of seriously testing him, he was garnering valuable television exposure and developing an even greater confidence about himself.

"When I first saw Ike," said Bill Benton, Kushner's matchmaker, "he was fighting on a show in Fort Worth, and he just impressed me with his basic boxing skills, balance, and ability to give and take. Once he started fighting on the *Heavyweight Explosion* shows, we really got to know him and see where he is coming from. He really wants to be world champion. A lot of guys who have

(Continued on page 57)

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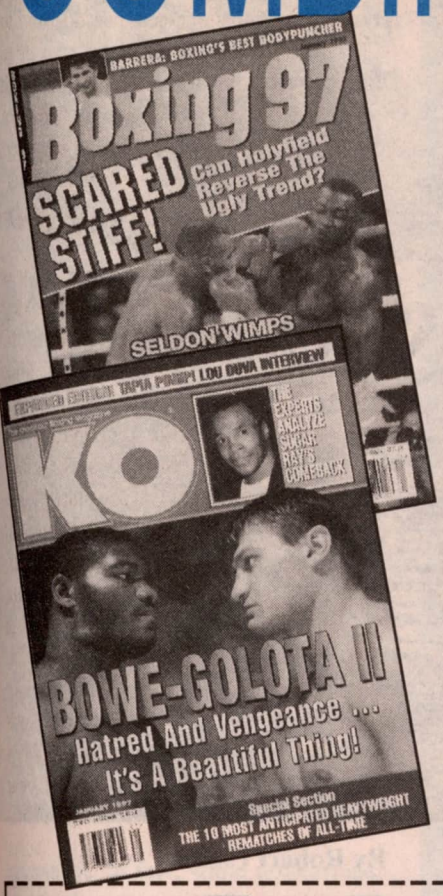

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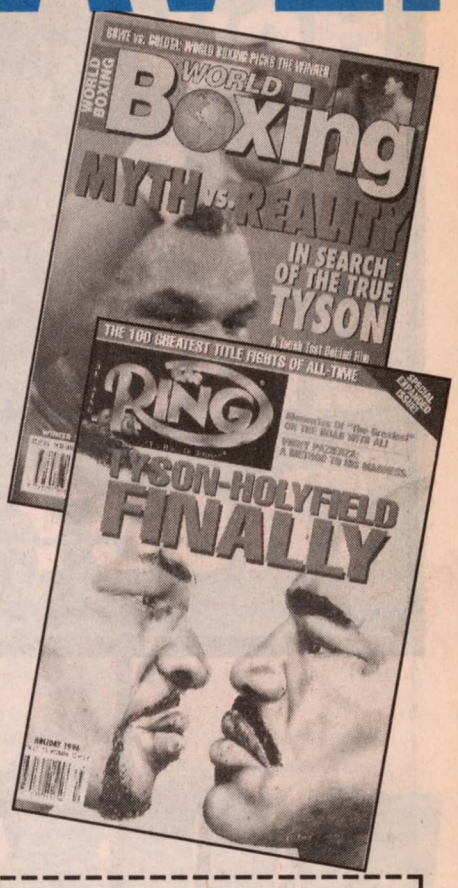

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How Do I Glove Thee?

Photo by Frank Vitucci

BOXING COUNTS THE WAYS

By Robert Cassidy

Perhaps the biggest misconception in boxing is that gloves were designed to protect the head. In fact, they were designed to protect the *hand*. A boxer's tools are his fists, and without a reliable set of tools, a fighter might as well become a carpenter. In bare-knuckle boxing, blows were often thrown with a cutting or slicing motion so the protruding knuckles would not absorb the entire blow. Gloves allowed fighters to punch with abandon. Suddenly, hard areas such as the temple and jaw became inviting targets.

Boxing gloves are the primary equipment used in a fight. The cup and mouthpiece are essential for protection and are mandated by the rules, but the glove offers the hand protection, it can be used as a defensive shield to help parry blows, and most significantly, it turns a fighter's fists into weapons. Yet despite the importance of gloves, there is little regulation concerning the sport's primary piece of equipment. In fact, while professional boxing gloves are visually inspected in the dressing room prior to a bout, they are not tested after they are packaged or held to any safety specifications once they are shipped to the promoter.

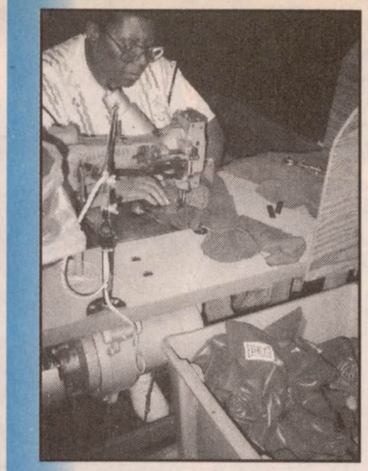
"It's really very simple," said Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission. "The gloves have to be eight or 10 ounces and the thumbs have to be attached. That's it. Eight ounces for fights under 154 pounds and 10 for fights above."

It is simple, but is it safe? Amateur boxing gloves are put through a battery of tests, while the gloves used in the pros are not.

For the purpose of this article, THE RING has spoken to fighters, trainers, managers, commissioners, and glove manufacturers. All agreed that a set of standards should be created and used as a guideline in manufacturing gloves for professional boxing.

(Continued on page 58)

FROM LEATHER TO FEATHERS



Exactly how are boxing gloves made? As this photo from the Everlast factory illustrates, an old-fasioned Singer sewing machine is part of the process.

The history of boxing extends back to Ancient Greece, when a king named Theseus introduced the sport as a form of entertainment sometime before the fifth century BC. The idea of protecting a warrior's hands dates back that far as well. To protect their knuckles, thumbs, and forearms, fighters wrapped their hands in soft leather thongs. The wrapping was called himantes. By the time boxing became an official sport at the 23rd Olympiad in 688 B.C., the himanteses were made of hard leather and were designed to inflict punishment, not just protect the hand.

The Romans introduced caestus, which were the same leather thongs that had been used by the Greeks. But the Romans placed bead-like metal objects on the leather to form a lethal weapon. Thus began the decline of ancient boxing and the advent of gladiatorial sport. Later versions of caestus also included sharpened spikes of metal.

Englishman James Figg was credited with the rebirth of boxing as we know it today by staging an exhibition in 1719 at a fair in London. By 1740, Jack Broughton, the champion of the day, had designed gloves that were filled with feathers. They weren't used in competition, but rather for sparring or when Broughton was teaching boxing to young men.

When the Marquis of Queensberry rules were written in 1867, gloves were used on a more regular basis. Still, many bouts remained bare-knuckle affairs. Skin-tight gloves, which were made to fit the hand snugly, were used at various times over the last half of the 19th century. The skin-tight days gave way to the two-ounce era, during which the gloves offered minimal protection. The last two-ounce gloved fight took place in Boston in 1903.

By 1903, gloves were the norm. The first world title bout fought with gloves under the Queensberry rules was the Nonpareil Jack Dempsey-George Fullijames middleweight bout in New York in July 1884. The first gloved heavyweight title bout came in New Orleans in September 1892, when James J. Corbett stopped John L. Sullivan in 21 rounds. The gloves weighed five ounces.

Everlast was formed in 1910, and has long billed itself as "The Choice Of Champions." Everlast, Benlee, G&S, and Frager were the popular brands in the United States through the '60s, when others began to prosper.

Glove sizes were assigned to specific weight classes in 1962, shortly after the Benny Paret tragedy. The use of six-ounce gloves was standard in lighter weight divisions until 1991, when Kid Akeem lapsed into a coma after losing an IBF junior bantamweight title fight to Robert Quiroga. Today, all fighters from welterweight down must use eight-ounce gloves, while participants in bouts from junior middleweight up are required to use 10-ounce gloves.

The most recent significant change has been the thumb-attached glove, which prevents fighters from sticking their thumb into an opponent's eye. The movement for thumb-attached gloves gained momentum after Sugar Ray Leonard announced his first retirement in 1982 due to surgery to repair a detached retina. Glove manufacturers experimented with thumbless gloves, but fighters found they were unable to make a proper fist. As a result, gloves were designed with the thumb attached to the side, either by leather or elastic. Today, thumb-attached gloves are mandatory in all bouts in the United States.

–RC

A Celebration Of Champions

HALL OF FAME WEEKEND:

THE CLASS OF '97

The inductees present at the International Boxing Hall of Fame: Sugar Ray Leonard, Jose Torres, and Don King.

Photo by Jay Lash

Photos by Pat Or

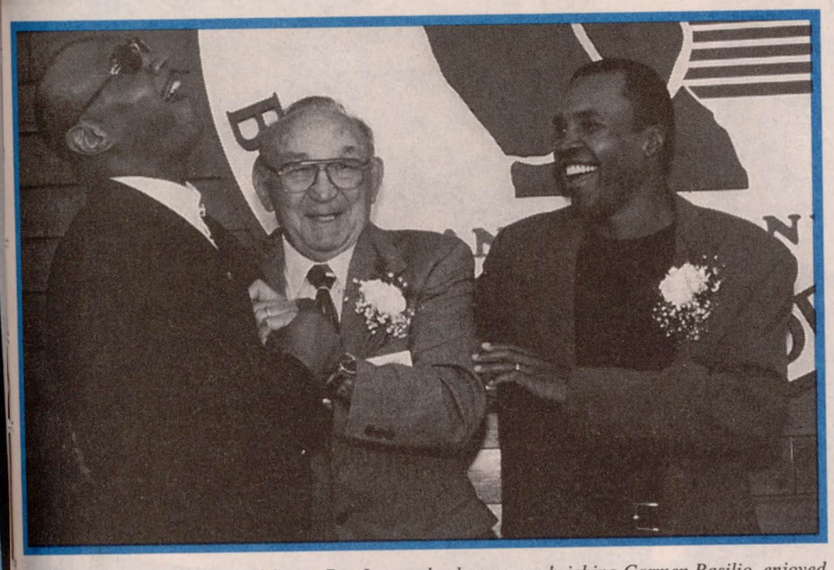
By Ed Maloney

From the '20s through the early-'70s, New York City, or more accurately Madison Square Garden, was the focal point of professional boxing. That changed with the advent of foreign-based world sanctioning bodies. For almost 20 years, the sport was without a central meeting place or headquarters. That began to change in 1990, with the opening of the International Boxing Hall of Fame. The IBHF has hosted its induction weekend every June since 1990, and has steadily gained credibility and stature.

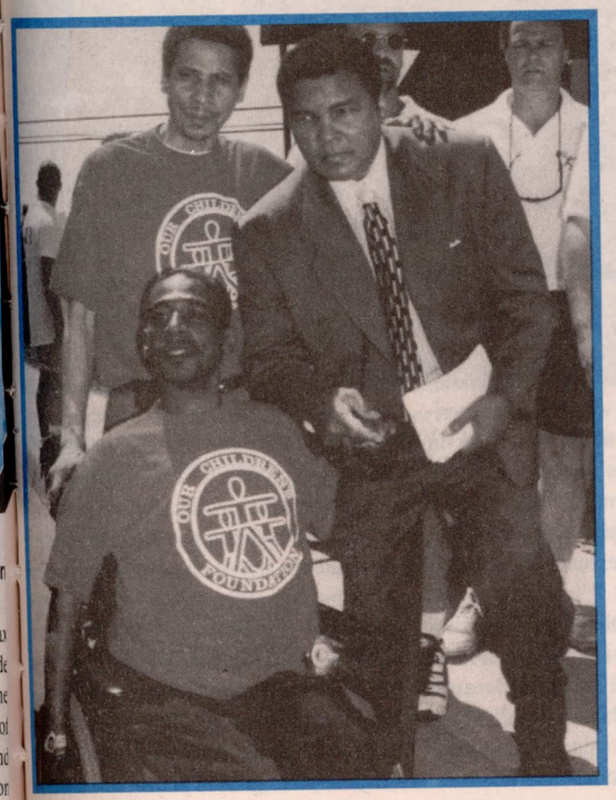
Since the Hall opened its doors, every living inductee, with the exceptions of Max Schmeling and Nino Benvenuti, has made the trip to Canastota, New York, for the four-day fistic festival. Family members of deceased inductees regularly attend, and foreign leaders have sent dignitaries on behalf of those inducted posthumously. Such guests aren't lured with the promise of a monetary fee or gifts. Just recognition.

The road from ring-center to Canastota has no curves or potholes. All honorees successfully negotiated and overcame such hazards en route to greatness. This year's inductees were no different. The three living honorees, five-division former world champion Sugar Ray Leonard, former light heavyweight champion Jose Torres, and promoter Don King, were living embodiments of this year's IBHF slogan, "All Roads Lead To Canastota."

The other inductees of the Class of '97: former world champions Pete Herman, Chalky Wright, Luis Rodriguez, Freddie Welsh, and Freddie Miller, heavyweight Joe Jeannette, bare-knucklers Tom Molineaux and Dutch Sam, ring announcer Joe Humphreys, and author and publisher Richard Fox.

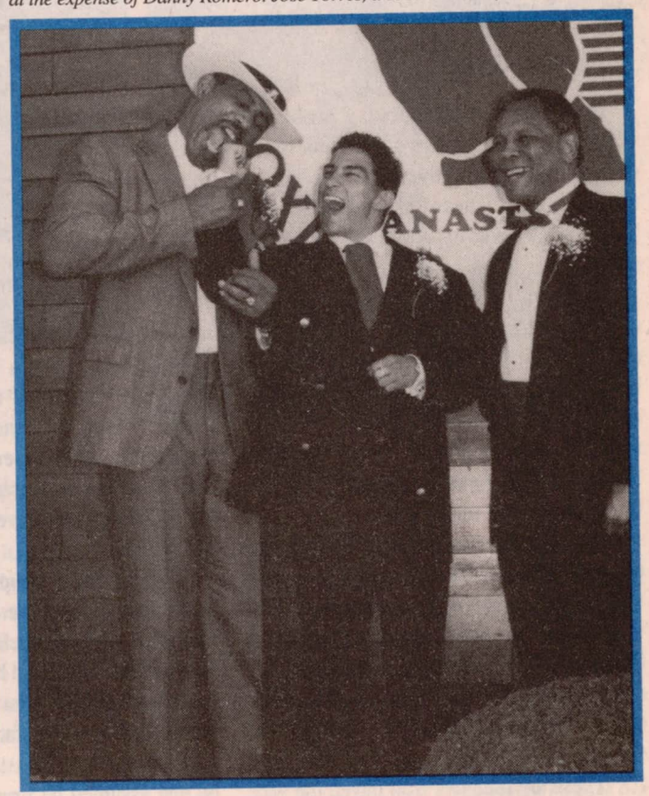


*Bad blood? Marvin Hagler and Sugar Ray Leonard, who are sandwiching Carmen Basilio, enjoyed each other's company in Canastota. At least we **think** they did.*

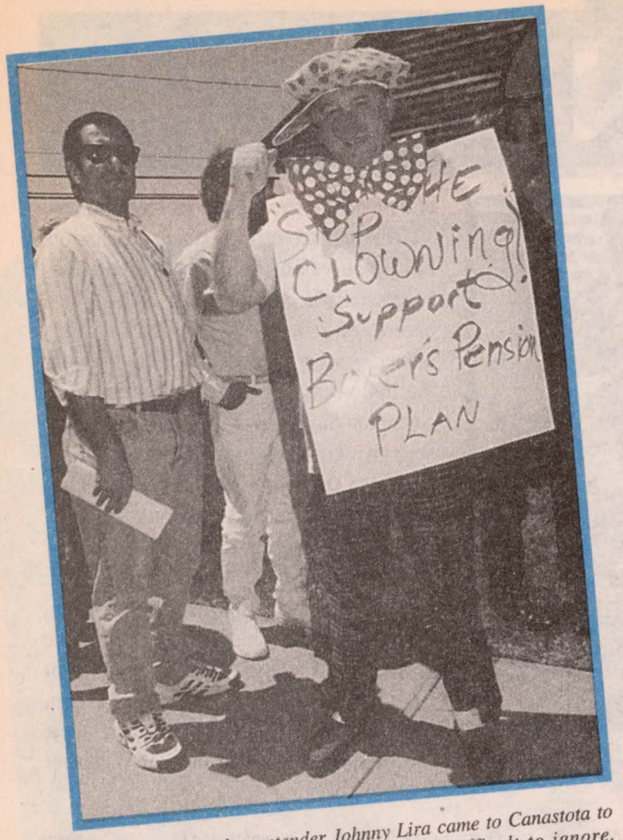


As usual, Muhammad Ali overshadowed all other Hall of Famers. And as usual, "The Greatest" gave generously of his time to all weekend visitors.

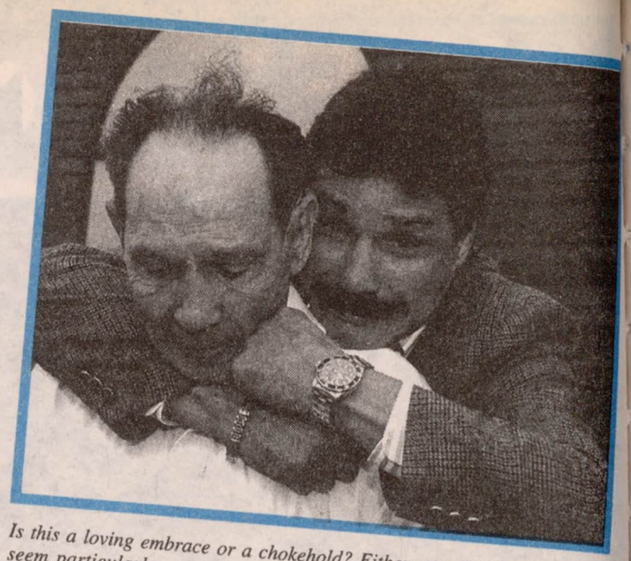
Ken Norton couldn't wait for the Banquet of Champions, so he enjoyed a snack at the expense of Danny Romero. Jose Torres, a 1997 inductee, looks on.



HALL OF FAME WEEKEND:

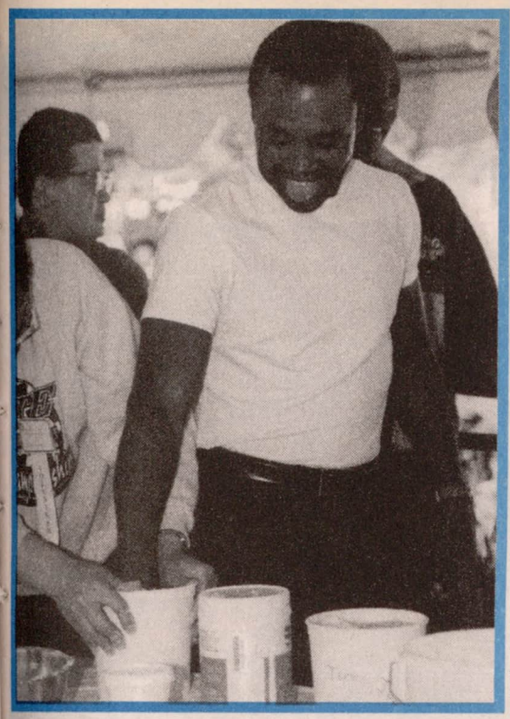


Former lightweight contender Johnny Lira came to Canastota to get a message across. He was certainly difficult to ignore. Must've been the bow tie.

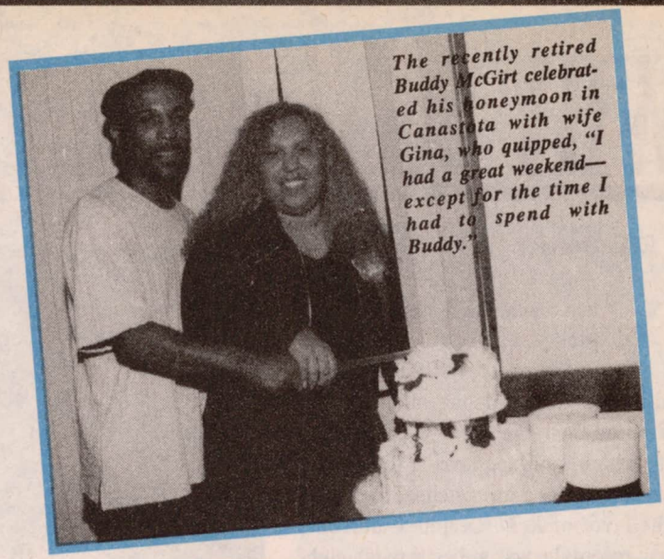


Is this a loving embrace or a chokehold? Either way, Willie Pep doesn't seem particularly concerned as fellow former featherweight champion Alexis Arguello holds on tight.

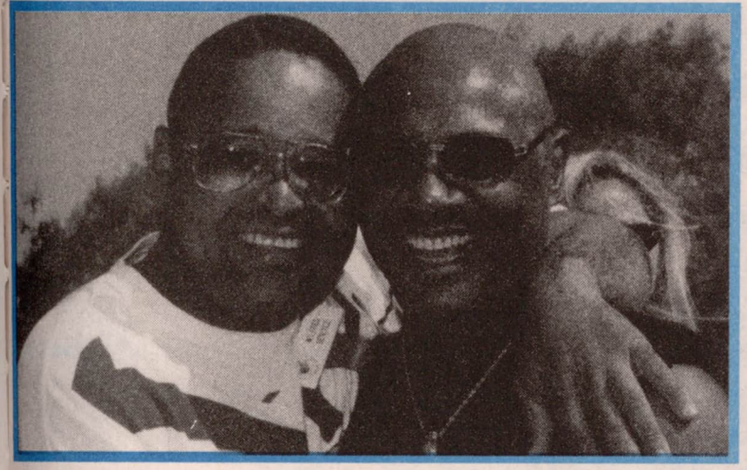
Promoter and 1997 inductee Don King spent 30 minutes strolling through the IBHF's museum. Here he inspects a painting of Hall of Famer Cus D'Amato.



Ray Leonard got plastered on Sunday morning, and did so with a smile on his face. It was Sugar Ray's first visit to Canastota. He promised it wouldn't be his last.



The recently retired Buddy McGirt celebrated his honeymoon in Canastota with wife Gina, who quipped, "I had a great weekend—except for the time I had to spend with Buddy."



Among the most special of guests in Canastota was three-division former champion and 1996 inductee Wilfred Benitez, shown with Marvin Hagler. Benitez, who has recently suffered through serious health problems, never stopped smiling.

Hall of Famer and induction weekend regular Carlos Ortiz poses in the museum with his favorite display. Ortiz helped celebrate the induction of fellow Puerto Rican Jose Torres.

Leonard arrived Thursday night and was immediately given a guided tour of the museum by Ed Brophy, the Hall's executive director. "I heard about the Hall of Fame, but I never expected this," Leonard said.

His private tour was interrupted by an old acquaintance, Aaron Pryor. The two discussed the museum, and then Pryor balled his once-lethal hand into a fist and showed Leonard his Hall of Fame diamond ring. "You'll be getting one of these on Sunday," Pryor said. Leonard gazed at Pryor's hand and smiled.

Throughout the weekend, Leonard eagerly mixed with the crowd, signing autographs, playing golf, and even dancing with fans at a local bar following Saturday's Banquet of Champions. He also made a point of visiting with some of the senior members of the Hall, such as Kid Gavilan.

"These are the guys who paved the way for me," Leonard said. "Because of them, I was able to have the success I did. I've had a few days to absorb the hospitality in Canastota, and it's truly wonderful. I've been able to witness and experience what this is all about. The look in people's eyes, the fans' support, the way the former and present champions give their love, the camaraderie, the interacting, the socializing with everyone. This is what it's all about.

"What a lot of people don't understand is the fact that all the former champions, including myself, feel the love. Because now we have a second home. Here."

It was not the first trip to his second home for Torres. In fact, Torres had traveled the road to Canastota so many times, he just assumed he was a member. "I was surprised when Ed Brophy told me I had been voted in," Torres said with a laugh. "But now I've got the diamond ring to remind me. I'm 61, so I'm able to fully comprehend the significance of the honor.

"I remember being very excited when I marched into the stadium in Melbourne for the opening ceremonies of the 1956 Olympics. And the night I became a world champion was also special. To be inducted while I'm alive and to have my family here, that's the real joy."

It's not unusual for inductees to have large contingents present for their enshrinement. More than 40 Torres family members attended, which is a record—for a fighter. But leave it to King, who holds virtually every promotional record, to bring the largest group. There were more than 300 in all, including family members, business associates, and more than 50 current and former world champions from his stable. King footed the entire bill. When his champions were added to the more than two dozen titlists the Hall regularly invites, it made for the largest gathering of champions ever.

"With the exception of some of the older guys, I've promoted most of the champions here," King said during his induction speech, which, to the surprise of no one, set a record for length. "They deserve the credit. But I owe it all to that man right there," he said, pointing to the most special of guests, Muhammad Ali. "Ali's the one who told me to go into promoting. He gave me some of my biggest breaks. I'm his legacy."

Like just about everything about him, King's induction was controversial. Several members of the media, as well as others who annually make the trip to Canastota, felt he didn't belong in the Hall. As a result, they boycotted the festivities, with some promising they'd never again return to Canastota.

"I know I have my naysayers," said King, "but you can't argue with the stats."

(Continued on page 61)

A Necessary Evil

WHY BOXING NEEDS MISMATCHES

By Eric Bottjer

When David Reid's management picked Sam Calderon as the opponent for the 1996 Olympic gold medalist's pro debut, many boxing fans raised their eyebrows. Calderon was 10-0, which, on paper, made the fight a mismatch. It was a mismatch, all right, but in the favor of *Reid*. Despite Calderon's glossy record, he was at best a tough club-fighter with no punch. On Reid's worst night, he wins the fight.

Boxing insiders will tell you that 90 percent of fights fall into the Reid-Calderon category, mismatches in which the "opponent" has little chance to win. This holds even for televised matches, where promoters are either building prospects or featuring older name-fighters against foes with shiny records and little ability.

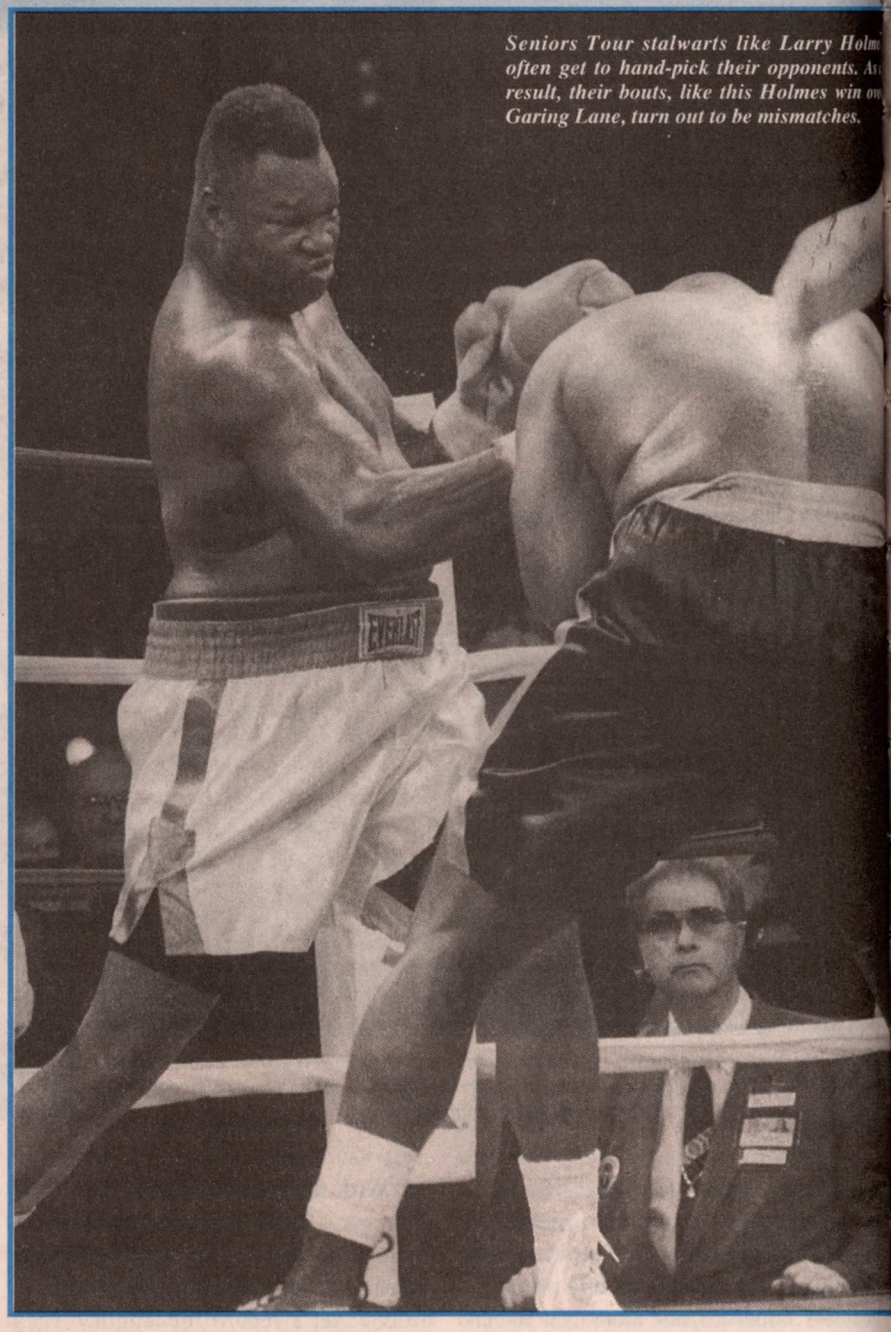
"The fact is, we are in the ratings and TV business, not the boxing business."

–USA Network's Brad Jacobs

"The fact is, we are in the ratings and TV business, not the boxing business," says Brad Jacobs, who chooses the bouts for the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights*. "We get complaints that we're the old geezer network for featuring guys like George Foreman and Larry Holmes, but the fact is, those types of guys deliver people to advertisers."

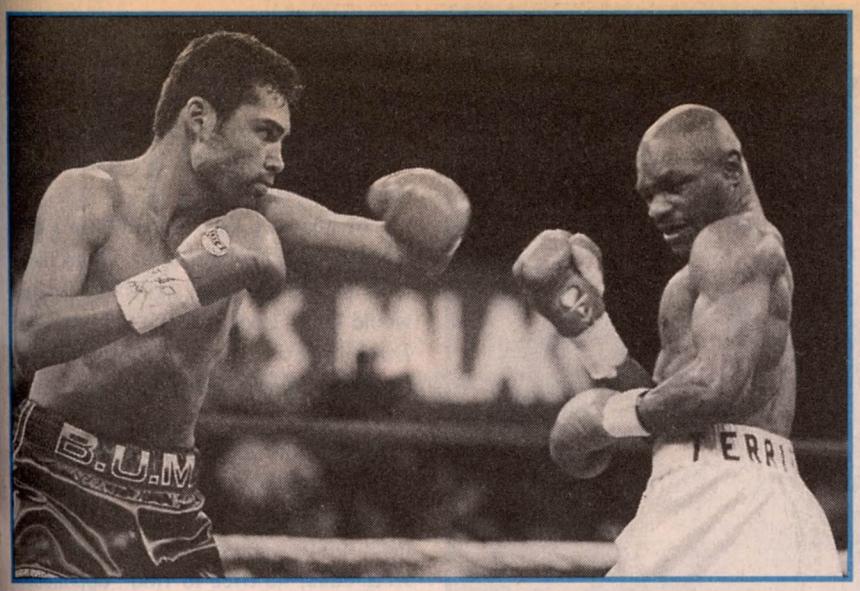
The fact, also, is that Holmes and Foreman box hand-picked opponents whom they can beat in their sleep. The best fights at USA are between Jacobs and promoters over the quality of "opponents."

"There has to be a balance between the validity of the fight and the marketability of the fighter, and unfortunately the two don't mix at this level," says Jacobs.



Seniors Tour stalwarts like Larry Holmes often get to hand-pick their opponents. As a result, their bouts, like this Holmes win over Garing Lane, turn out to be mismatches.

Bob Yalen, director of boxing for ESPN and ABC, agrees with Jacobs that, given today's limited TV budgets, it's tough to find a middle ground with promoters. "My job is to get the best fight for



In February 1996, Oscar De La Hoya and Julio Cesar Chavez were featured on HBO in bouts against Darryl Tyson (pictured) and Scott Walker, respectively. The idea was to showcase the fighters before their scheduled superfight, and not to televise competitive matches.

the least amount of money; their job is to get the least dangerous fight for the most amount of money," says Yalen. "For the most part, promoters realize that to get on network TV, they have to find a happy medium."

Matchmakers also realize that if they want to keep their jobs, they can't get their bosses' rising prospects beat. "They're having these hearings in the Senate on fight-fixing. Hell, I fix fights every day," says Cedric Kushner's matchmaker, Bill Benton, speaking figuratively. "You tell me that when I call up some guy who's 8-8 and offer him a fight against a killer who's 14-0 with 14 knockouts, I don't know who's going to win the fight.

"I'd love it if I had a job where I was matching unbeaten guys in 50-50 fights, but if you did that, boxing wouldn't last a week. Anyone who thinks you can run boxing like that needs to have his head examined.

"The main reason to have boxing shows is to build fighters. From John L. Sullivan on, all great fighters fought their brother-in-law on the way up. Boxing has always been cowboys and Indians."

Don Chargin, who at age 68 is the dean of today's matchmakers and promoters, agrees with Benton's blunt assessment. "Mismatches are a necessary evil in boxing," says Chargin, who didn't make too many of them while earning the nickname "War A Week" during his days at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. "The name of the game is to build up talent. If every fight was an even one, you'd kill your talent and attractions.

"People talk of the good old days, but it's been like this forever. Guys like Riddick Bowe, Oscar De La Hoya, Evander Holyfield, they were brought up right. They've had competitive fights, but at the right time."

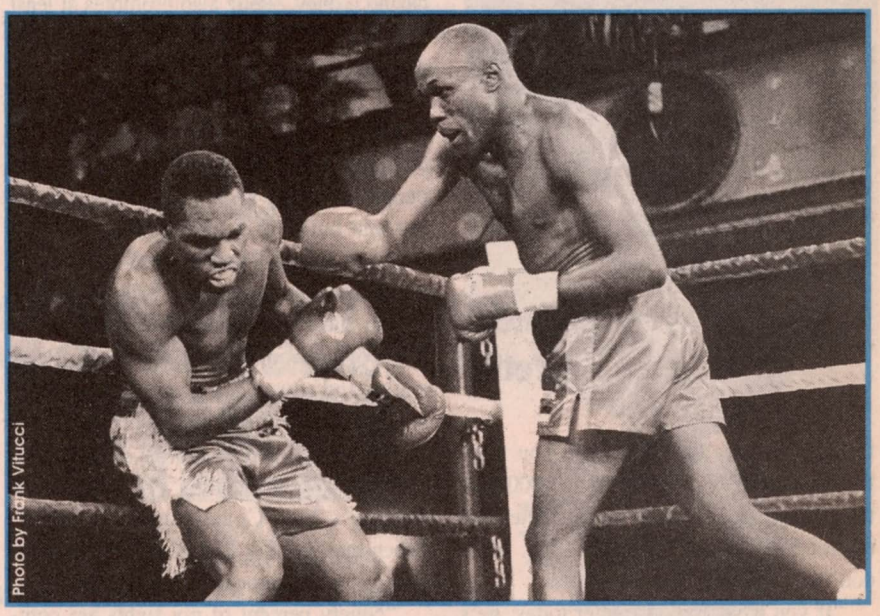
The right time is when the money is right. Promoters don't risk fighters like Bowe and De La Hoya unless the paycheck is seven figures or better. Even when De La Hoya was fighting pay-per-view main events against the likes of Genaro Hernandez and Rafael Ruelas, there was little chance of him losing.

Even HBO, once considered the last bastion of quality boxing, now occasionally televises mismatches. You think Tiger Jones had a chance against Ike Quartey? You think Danny Romero and Johnny Tapia, appearing in separate bouts in March, were fighting opponents with even a remote chance of winning? How about last year, when Scott Walker was matched against Julio Cesar Chavez, and Darryl Tyson met De La Hoya?

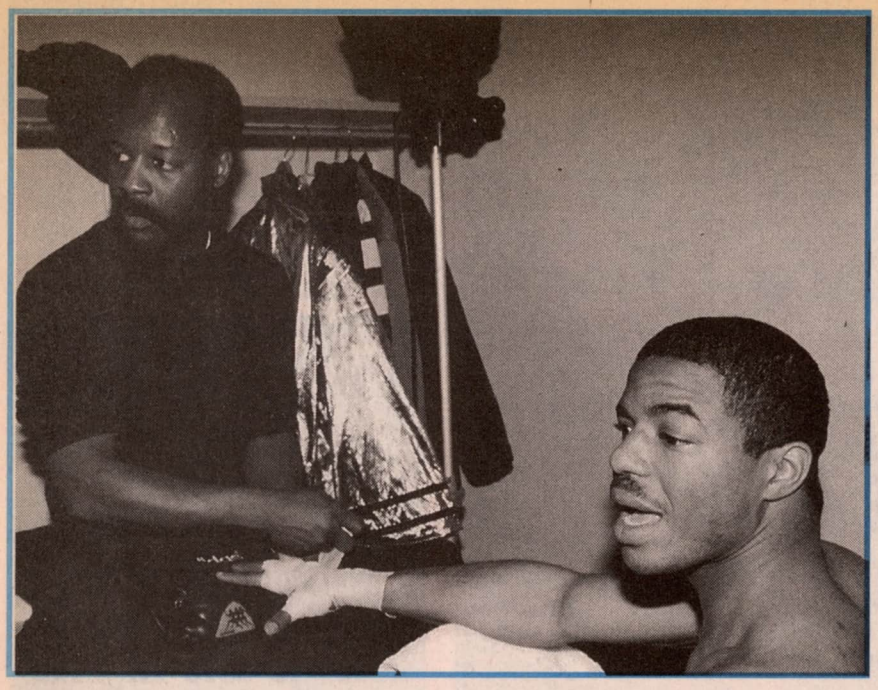
"I'd love it if I had a job where I was matching guys in 50-50 fights. But if you did that, boxing wouldn't last a week. Anyone who thinks you can run boxing like that needs to have his head examined."

–Matchmaker Bill Benton

Showtime is just as guilty, as Don King has shrewdly built fighters for pay-per-view matches on SET, the network's pay-per-view arm.



Russell Peltz usually promotes competitive matches at the legendary Blue Horizon, like April's bout between Joseph Kiwanuka (right) and Antoine Byrd. "We're one of the last places around where we can survive off ticket sales and not have to rely on casino money," Peltz said.



In his first two pro bouts, Olympic gold medalist David Reid, shown with trainer/manager Al Mitchell, took on Sam Calderon, 10-0 going in, and Robert Koon, 13-1. While the bouts were hardly mismatches, neither Calderon nor Koon were as good as their records suggested.

Televised bouts have not always been so one-sided. In the early-'80s, with all three free TV networks running consistently and paying fat purses, mismatches were the exception, not the rule. It was worth the risk to fight on CBS when you were getting a purse of $50,000 or $75,000. For the same type of bout today, a fighter can expect $15,000 on USA or ESPN. Most don't take the risk.

"Before Dan [Duva] died, he told me, 'Don't worry about being the best matchmaker in boxing. Just be the best matchmaker for Main Events.' And my job at Main Events is developing talent."

–Matchmaker Carl Moretti

"If you have a good fighter today, he's not going to make any real money until he gets to the HBO level," says Philadelphia-based matchmaker-promoter Russell Peltz.

Peltz is one of the few promoters with the well-deserved reputation for putting on competitive matches. His fights at the Blue Horizon sell out weeks ahead of time, sometimes even before the main event is announced.

"We have a unique situation at the Blue Horizon," says Peltz. "We're one of the last places around where we can survive off ticket sales and not have to rely on casino money. [Peltz also promotes at least four USA Network-televised shows from the Blue each year.]

"I look at the Blue Horizon as the Madison Square Garden of the '90s. I'm charging $35 a ticket and I've got to give people a quality show. If you want to go out and build up a fighter, fine, but you won't do it here. I don't like to make fights where I have to stand in the back and hide."

For those occasions when he'll give a four- or six-round fighter a break, Peltz smiles and says, "Those aren't mismatches. Those are learning experiences."

Another fight series featuring few "learning experiences" is Top Rank Boxing's East Coast shows on ESPN. When matchmaker Ron Katz calls, a manager knows his prospect is in for a fight.

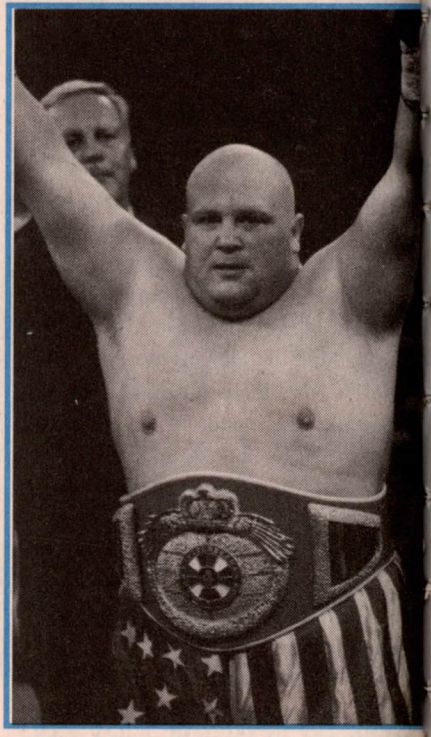
"Ninety percent of my fights are competitive on paper," says Katz. "There is enough potential for mismatches with the possibility of a one-round blowout, or a guy falling out two days before the fight and a last-minute sub coming in. So why make mismatches when they're going to occur often enough from ways out of your control?

"Mismatches have always been a deep thorn in the side of this sport. I think that if more people had good fights, the fan base would build. Look at HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. They're not showing marquee names, but they do great fights and they do great ratings."

Katz admits to his share of mismatches. Like every other promoter, Top Rank has its own prospects to build, and that doesn't mean putting them in 50-50 fights. But, Katz adds, he tries to find "opponents" who at least give fans the impression they're competitive.

Like Peltz, Katz is encouraged to make undercard wars. His undercards are often televised, and the quality of fights has to be high. Conversely, when Main Events promotes a show, it's usually aired on pay-per-view or HBO, which doesn't televise the undercard. As a result, Main Events undercards are littered with mismatches.

(Continued on page 61)



When it comes to competitive bouts, there are different rules for different fighters. Butterbean's fans don't seem to mind when he's matched against a heavyweight who can barely keep his hands up. For "The King Of The Four-Rounders," the show's the thing, not the fight.

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LATEST IBO WORLD RATINGS AS OF JUNE 15, 1997

HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Brian Nielson 1-Lennox Lewis 2-Evander Holyfield 3-Henry Akinwande 4-Mike Tyson 5-Andrew Golota 6-Michael Moorer 7-Ray Mercer 8-Tim Witherspoon 9-Chris Byrd 10-Ike Ibeabuchi

SP.MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Mads Larsen 1-Steve Collins 2-Frank Liles 3-Robin Reid 4-Joseph Kiwanuka 5-Robert Duran 6-Charles Brewer 7-Gary Ballard 8-Vinny Pazienza 9- Jorge Castro 10-Glenn Thomas

WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Kevin Lueshing *Interim Champion 1-Jose Rivera* 2-Felix Trinidad 3-Oscar De La Hoya 4-Ike Quartey 5-Pernell Whitaker 6-Wilfredo Rivera 7-Gary Murray 8-Patrick Charpentier 9-Derrell Coley 10-Oba Carr

CRUISERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Nate Miller 2-Marcelo Dominquez 3-Adolfo Washington 4-Chris Eubank 5-Robert Daniels 6-Ralf Rocchigiani 7-Torsten May 8-Kenny Keene 9-Uriah Grant 10-Fabrice Tiozzo

MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1- Keith Holmes 2-William Joppy 3-Bernard Hopkins 4-Dana Rosenblatt 5-Lonnie Bradley 6-Hector Camacho 7-Quincy Taylor 8-Paul Vaden 9-Otis Grant 10-Silvio Branco

JR. WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Johar Lashin 1-Vince Phillips 2-Miguel Angel Gonzalez 3-Soren Sondergaaro 4-Khalid Rahilou 5-Julio Cesar Chavez 6-Frankie Randell 7-Kosty Tszyu 8-Giovanni Parisi 9-Paul Nave 10-Rodney Wilson

LT. HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Drake Thadzi 1-Dariusz Michalczewski 2-Montell Griffin 3-Roy Jones Jr. 4-Virgil Hill 5-Fredrik Alvarez 6-Graciano Rocchigiani 7-Darren Allen 8-William Gunthrie 9-Rocky Gannon 10-Michael Nunn

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Terry Norris 2-Laurent Boudaouani 3-Winky Wright 4-Jose Luis Lopez 5-Raul Marquez 6-Gianfanco Rosi 7-Crisanto Espana 8-Bronco McKart 9-Julio Cesar Vasquez 10-Sam Retta

LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Tony Pep 1-Orzubek Nazarov 2-Phillip Holiday 3-Steve Johnston 4-Shane Mosley 5-George Scott 6-Lamar Murphy 7-Jean Baptist Mendy 8-John John Molina 9-Atur Grigorian 10-Billy Irwin

JR. LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Troy Dorsey 1-Arturo Gatti 2-Genero Hernandez 3-Yong Soo Choi 4-Azumah Nelson 5-Joel Casamayor 6-Anatoli Alexandrov 7-Regilio Tuurr 8-Julien Lorcy 9-Dennis Holbaek 10-Gabriel Ruelas

BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Johnny Bredahl 1-Mbulelo Botile 2-Robbie Regan 3-Daorund Chuvatana 4-Nana Konadu 5-Veeraphol Sahaprom 6-Paulie Ayala 7-Sirimon Singmanassuk 8-Ancee Gedeon 9-Jorge Julio 10-John M. Johnson

JR. FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Saman Sorjaturong 2-Keji Yamaguchi 3-Maricio Pastrana 4-Michael Carbajal 5-Jake Matlala 6-Hi-Yong Choi 7-Pongsaklak Sitanongaok 8-Hadao C. P. Gym 9-Nungdien Sakchaporn 10-Rudy Edano

FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Naseem Hamed 2-Luisito Espinosa 3-Wilfredo Vasquez 4-Tom Johnson 5-Franciso Segura 6-David Toledo 7-Eloy Rojas 8-Kevin Kelly 9-Johnny Lewis 10-Carmelo Negron

JR. BANTAMWEIGHT Ch: Angel Almena 1-Danny Romero 2-Johnny Tapia 3-Gerry Penalosa 4-Katsuya Onizuka 5-Yokthai Sith-Oar 6-Carlos Salazar 7-Ratanchai Sor Voraphin 8-Torsak Saspraphagym 9-Hiroshi Kawashima 10-Harold Grey

MINI-FLYWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Ricardo Lopez 2-Ratanapol Sow Voraphin 3-Alex Sanchez 4-Rosendo Alvarez 5-Juan Herrera 6-Kermin Guardia 7-Song Porpaoin 8-Chana Porpaoin 9-Rolando Tuyugon 10-Wonwin Jaw Chareon

JR. FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Sergei Devakov 1-Junior Jones 2-Daniel Zaragoza 3-Antonio Cermino 4-Vuyani Bungu 5-Marco Antonio Barrera 6-Wayne McCullough 7-Dejpow Paointr 8-Kong Sor Kitti 9-Rico Siodora 10-Frankie Toledo

FLYWEIGHT Ch: Scotty Olson 1-Yuri Arbachakov 2-Mark Johnson 3-Jesus Zuniga 4-Jose Bonilla 5-Jesper D. Jensen 6-Jose Luis Zepeda 7-Saen Sow Pleonchit 8-Will Grigsby 9-Chatchai Elite Gym 10-Arthur Johnson

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IS HE FINISHED?

By William Dettloff

After two weeks of almost suffocating attention, it was over.

In the blink of an eye, the world moved on.

At almost the precise moment that the Nevada State Athletic Commission announced its ruling to revoke Mike Tyson's boxing license, the stare of the industrialized world left the bizarre realm of professional prize fighting and turned its sights on less complex, more familiar subjects.

A final, mad rush was made for any industry source who could be found to pontificate on the significance of the ruling, but that was really the story's last great gasp. Yes, there remained for a day or two the obligatory "do-you-think-the-punishment-was-stern-enough?" angle, and even that was milked, but much of the steam was gone by then. The day after, local evening news telecasts led with stories other than those that involved the latest Tyson sighting, and the tabloid magazine shows saw fit to finally stop reporting the results of those call-in opinion polls that are a staple of the genre.

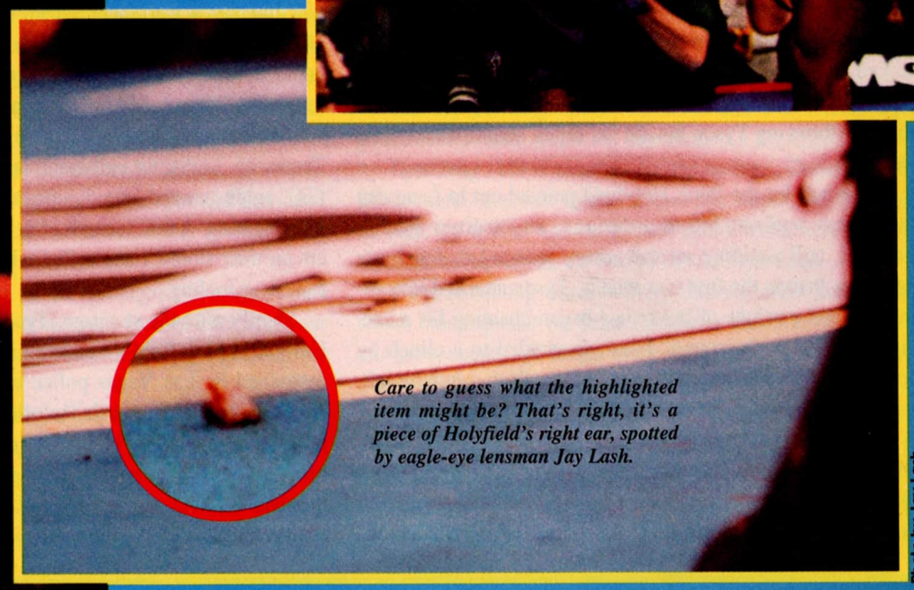
"Should Tyson be banned for life? Tell us what you think, America."

Scour the radio as we might, we wouldn't find much more Tyson talk out there.

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

Photo by Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

In retrospect, it's remarkable Tyson wasn't disqualified for Bite Number One, which sent Holyfield into a frenzy (above). Tyson followed the heinous foul by shoving the champion from behind (right).



Care to guess what the highlighted item might be? That's right, it's a piece of Holyfield's right ear, spotted by eagle-eye lensman Jay Lash.

Photo by Jay Lash

No, when the last of the non-sporting press gathered their laptops and left in a bunch from Las Vegas, it was clear that it was over, time to move on to the next headline, the next topic of the week. The full cast of boxing's misfit characters, brought into the light by the non-boxing media to help illuminate this dark, barbaric world of severed ears and broken hearts for the rest of the world's edification, was free to return to its own kind, where the sights and sounds would be familiar, and the lights not so harsh.

So the world has moved on to its next headline, to vanquish its next villain, exalt its next hero, or expose its next tragedy, and it is us who are left—without the world's able assistance—to ponder what might happen next.

THE FIGHT BEFORE THE BITE

Mike Tyson usually doesn't attempt to stare down an opponent during the referee's final instructions, but before his June 28 battle against WBA heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, contested before a sellout crowd of more than 16,000 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, he looked right into "The Real Deal's" eyes. Or maybe it was his ears.

The crowd was dead during a horrible undercard, but when the fighters made their ring walks, the big-fight atmosphere finally set in. (Holyfield received the louder cheers.) Mikah Hale's rendition of the National Anthem was so stirring, few in attendance wanted to sit back down when she was finished.

When referee Mills Lane (USA) shouted his trademark line, "Let's get it on!" we thought we were about to see a special fight. It was special all right, but for all the wrong reasons.

The first half of the opening round was quiet, with Tyson, 218, Catskill, New York, missing three jabs, but also ducking under three hooks. Holyfield, a career-high 218, Atlanta, Georgia, was physical inside, and only 20 seconds in, Tyson complained to Lane about butts. The fight wasn't a minute old when Lane called the heavyweights together for a quickie lecture. As it turned out, the rough stuff was just beginning.

The round belonged to Holyfield, who twice moved Tyson to the ropes and, with 40 seconds remaining, landed a right that clearly shook the challenger. It would be the best single punch of the nine-minute fight.

Thirty seconds into round two, Tyson missed with a right, and as Holyfield moved in, the fighters clashed heads. Tyson emerged with a long horizontal cut on his right eyelid. Lane called a short timeout and signaled to the judges that the cut had been opened by an unintentional butt. Again, Tyson ducked under several of Holyfield's hooks, but failed to respond with shots of his own. At one point, Holyfield broke a clinch by throwing Tyson toward the ropes. Again, a Holyfield round.

At the bell for the third, Holyfield pointed out to Lane that Tyson was without his mouthpiece, and trainer Richie Giachetti, still standing on the apron, inserted it. Far more aggressive than in the first two rounds, Tyson attacked in combination, and portions of the crowd began chanting his name. Halfway through the round, Tyson responded to a clinch by shoving his forearm into Holyfield's neck. With a minute left, Tyson connected with his best punch to that point, a left hook.

Twenty seconds later, while jockeying for position inside, Tyson chomped down on Holyfield's right ear, ripped off a piece of flesh, and then spit it out and onto the canvas. (Contrary to initial reports, he did not first spit out his mouthpiece.) In pain—and probably shock—Holyfield did a 360-degree jump, then stomped on the canvas before turning his back to his opponent. Tyson rushed in and pushed Holyfield from behind. Holyfield frantically motioned to his ear as Tyson returned to his corner.

Photo by Jamie Squire/Allsport

Marc Ratner, the executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, conferred with Lane, who said, "He bit his ear. I gotta DQ him." Ratner responded, "You really want to disqualify him?" Lane then said, "I'll ask the doctor," referring to Dr. Flip Homansky, who briefly examined the champion's ear. Homansky indicated that Holyfield could fight on, and the champion had every intention of doing just that, telling assistant trainer Tommy Brooks, who was screaming for an instant disqualification, "Put my mouthpiece back in. I'm gonna knock him out."

By the time Lane brought the fighters together for a second talk and then waved them toward each other, 2:10 had elapsed. He had deducted two points from Tyson, one for the bite, and another for the push. At some point during the chaos, Holyfield later said, Tyson called him a "punk."

The fighters resumed punching, but with 20 seconds left, Tyson, 45-3 (39), bit Holyfield on the left ear. Holyfield, 34-3 (24), again jumped into the air, and Tyson waved for him to keep fighting. A few seconds after the bell, and with both fighters on their stools, Lane called a halt, disqualifying Tyson for excessive fouling.

Shortly after the stoppage, Tyson almost rumbled with Tim Hallmark, Holyfield's conditioning coach. The fighter was restrained by Las Vegas police officers. About two minutes later, Tyson tried to rush Holyfield's corner, but was again restrained. Finally, as he left the ring with his entourage, two men tossed cups of soda at him, nearly prompting a brawl in the stands.

–Steve Farhood

Photo by Todd Warshaw/Allsport

Told by referee Mills Lane he's been disqualified, Tyson seems incredulous. Many observers believe he twice bit Holyfield to get DQ'd and save himself from a second consecutive knockout defeat to "The Real Deal." It now looks unlikely that Tyson will ever recapture his old skills.

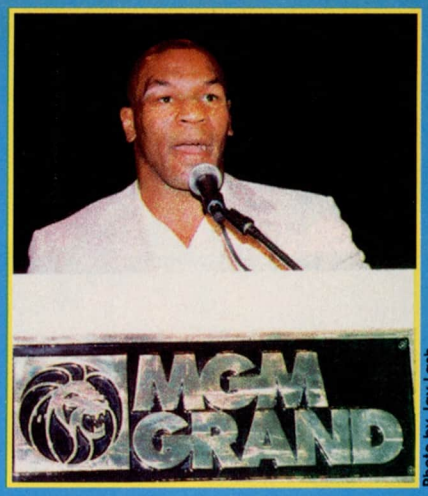


Photo by Jay Lash

Tyson apologizes for his actions two days after the fight. His license was nonetheless revoked by the Nevada State Athletic Commission. Tyson can reapply for a license in a year.

Although to the rest it is old news already, to us there is yet much drama to be played out in the ongoing trial that is Tyson's life, both in and out of the squared circle. If one looks closely, it becomes clear that there remain countless details and outcomes to consider and to be decided.

The story is far from over. In boxing, as in most things, it is while the rest of the world is looking away that the most telling events unfold. Consider, for instance, the language that accompanied the revocation of Tyson's license, and what that language will probably mean in the end. It stated that although his boxing license was officially revoked, the former champion could apply for reinstatement at the end of one year, and every year thereafter.

In the rest of the world, this caveat would be correctly construed not as a sign of promise, but as a mere requirement of formality; not something upon which one might pin one's hope, but rather a gentlemanly way of breaking things off without sounding unduly harsh.

And that's it. A formality. A courtesy extended with the understanding that revoked means revoked.

(Continued on page 54)

FOULING: A FIGHTER'S CHECKLIST

Sink your teeth into this: Biting is bad, but there are other acts of malevolence inside the prize ring. The following list was prepared by former middleweight contender Michael Olajide. (The numbers in parenthesis indicate the severity of the foul, on a scale of 1-10.)

The headbutt (8) is used by the desperate fighter. At its gentlest, the victim suffers swelling around the eyes and feels as if he's been hammered by a meat tenderizer. At its worst, butting brings severe lacerations and concussions.

Lacing (8) is the weapon of the intelligently savage. When your opponent runs his laces down your face, it feels as if your skin is on fire. If you're already cut, the lacing opens up the floodgates.

The fighter who is both dirty and shrewd chooses elbowing (7). The theory: If the left hook doesn't get you, the elbow on the follow-through will. It's a potential jaw-breaker.

While in clinches, elbow-bending (4) is a favorite of intimidators. This former pro has never seen a fighter suffer a broken arm from such a maneuver, but it can happen.

Protective cup or not, low blows (9) are painful, especially when connecting on the upswing.

The hip punch (5) is a calculated effort to inflict severe pain. It hurts much worse the day after.

Thumbing (10) is reserved for the twisted. Thumb-attached gloves make this foul more difficult to commit, but it can still be done by leather artists. A hard thumb to the eye feels like someone is massaging the frontal lobe of your brain.

There is nothing warm or fuzzy about a rabbit punch (10+), which lands against the brain stem. It is the most dangerous—and preventable—of illegal maneuvers. Referees should immediately deduct points, then disqualify the guilty party.

Finally, there's biting (6), which is almost always the choice of the frustrated. It's not usually a calculated violation of the rules, nor a particularly disturbing one—until now.

Funny, but none of these infractions ends a fight as quickly as a *legal* punch to the chops.

Watch Out, Macho Man!

Kamau climbed through the ropes weighing 159 pounds. Was De La Hoya's impressive kayo victory a preview of his future performances at higher weights?

De La Hoya, who has reunited with assistant trainer Robert Alcazar (giving him the ride), is now guided by Emanuel Steward, a renowned professor of the powerpunch.

Photos by Chris Farina

By William Dettloff

"Power is not a means, it is an end."
–George Orwell

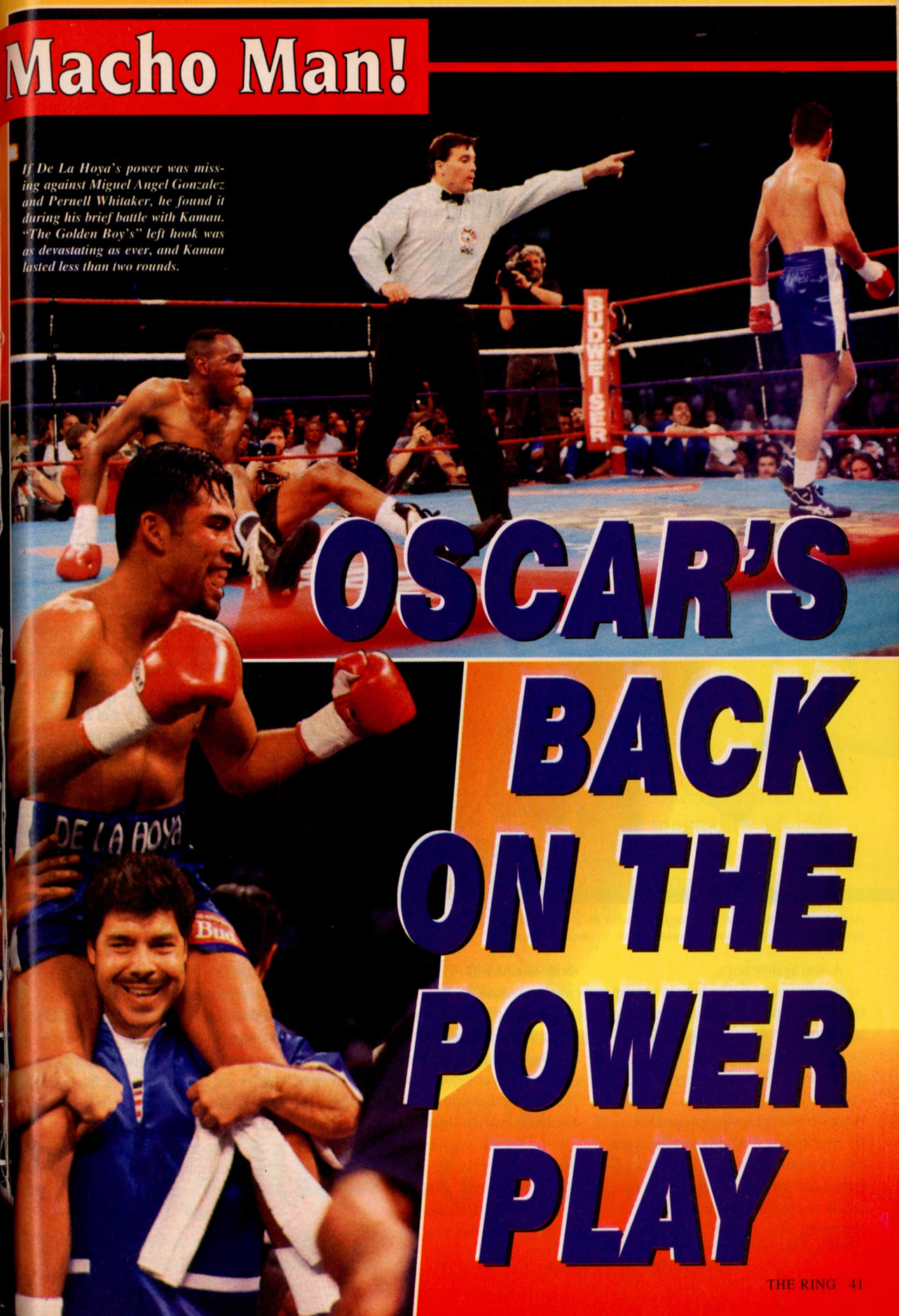
In the world of professional prize fighting, power is king. We don't like to admit it, especially the purists among us, but it is the man who can be counted upon to render another unconscious with a single blow who most frequently captures our attention, and who holds it until our hearts—and our dollars—follow. We would like to think that on our best days, at least, we are above such crude simplicity, that we can admire an elegant hook off the jab as much as we do a concussive overhand right.

Most of the time, though, we cannot. Even as we smile and nod appreciatively at the clean counterpunch that is borne of a perfectly timed pivot to the side, it is the sensational knockout blow that lifts us from our seats.

The fighters know this, of course, as do the managers, and especially the promoters. Power is everything in this game, and if you want further proof, go back and count the number of promoters who took up residence outside an Indiana prison when Mike Tyson, then seen as the world's most powerful fighter in any way you care to count, was preparing to reenter the fray. They knew then what they know now: Their power would grow exponentially with his.

Few fighters are as familiar with the lure of power, or understand it quite so well, as WBC welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya. He appears to recognize better than most that his current standing as one of the game's brightest stars is due largely to his ability to knock his

If De La Hoya's power was missing against Miguel Angel Gonzalez and Pernell Whitaker, he found it during his brief battle with Kamau. "The Golden Boy's" left hook was as devastating as ever, and Kamau lasted less than two rounds.



OSCAR'S BACK ON THE POWER PLAY

opponents out, quite often spectacularly. He knows that while his dark good looks, well-honed image, and obvious skills all contribute to the package, it is mostly his power that makes him so marketable.

Until lately, there had never been reason to question its validity. A full 20 of De La Hoya's first 22 opponents were kayo victims, casualties unable to sustain under the force of his wicked left hook and uppercut. And we're not talking about the disposable retreads typically fed potential stars. Such names as Jorge Paez, Rafael Ruelas, Genaro Hernandez, and Jesse James Leija, former champions all, were blown out with the kind of ease with which the aforementioned Mr. Tyson strode through the heavyweight division in his most formidable days.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

As always, Camacho was in a playful mood at the press conference for his challenge of De La Hoya, but will he be laughing when he tastes Oscar's considerable power?

A man against boys.

It seems almost silly now in retrospect that first Ruelas and then Hernandez were supposed to be very significant tests for De La Hoya; Ruelas because of his power and doggedness, Hernandez because of his superior technical abilities. Yet De La Hoya's first solid hook separated Ruelas of his equilibrium, if not his eagerness, and a pair of short uppercuts to the bridge of Hernandez' already damaged beak was all it took to convince that undefeated former champion that, against De La Hoya, at least, the risk assumed in battle far outweighed any possible gain.

That De La Hoya overwhelmed the two in successive fights is evidence of the confidence that his power assures. Who else but a puncher of his means would fight those two back-to-back? When Darryl Tyson and the great Julio Cesar Chavez were dispatched with equal aplomb, THE RING's sister magazine *KO* rated De La Hoya the second-best puncher on the planet, pound-for-pound, ahead of such established bombers as Felix Trinidad, Tyson, and Roy Jones.

One wondered when we might next see a foe sturdy enough to last the full distance with him, much less turn him away.

Then came the bouts against Miguel Angel Gonzalez and Pernell Whitaker, both of which De La Hoya won—the former convincingly, the latter less so—by decision. And suddenly, one sensed a bit of panic in the champion's circle.

De La Hoya, in his short 4½ years as a pro, had never before participated in two consecutive fights in which he didn't score a knockout. Mike Grable took De La Hoya the full eight rounds in "The Golden Boy's" sixth pro fight, and it didn't happen again until veteran John-John Molina went 12 in '95—11 fights later.

Forget the fact that Gonzalez was an undefeated, if outgunned, former champion the night the two met, and that De La Hoya beat him with virtually the jab alone. Forget also that when facing Whitaker, one should consider himself lucky indeed to string together a punch or two every other round or so, never mind to walk away with a victory—albeit one somewhat disputed—over this era's equivalent of Willie Pep.

Regardless, The Golden Boy never clearly hurt either Gonzalez or Whitaker, never sent them wobbling around the ring as he had so many of his past opponents. As a result, there were those observers who saw the bouts as evidence that De La Hoya's ability to turn on the power was waning.

One of those observers was De La Hoya himself, who stated quite freely before his recent defense against David Kamau that he was tired of distance fights and eager to score a knockout again.

"People pay their money to see good fights," he told the Associated Press in the days leading up to the match. "I want to get back to getting knockouts in the early rounds like the way I was before."

He wasn't just giving us lip service, either. Several weeks earlier, trainer Jesus "The Professor" Rivero had been released, and Emanuel Steward was brought in. Rivero, who was lured out of retirement by promoter Bob Arum after De La Hoya's tussle with Molina, is a teacher who is oriented toward defense. He guided Miguel Canto, one of the slickest defensive fighters of his era, to the flyweight title in the '70s.

Given his calling in this area, it would seem remarkable that Rivero lasted with De La Hoya as long as he did. What was a trainer drenched in the subtleties of defense doing with one of the best pure punchers on the planet? This is tantamount to leaving the tuning of one's Ferrari in the hands of an expert Volkswagen mechanic. It doesn't matter if he's the best in the world at tuning Volkswagens. When you've got a monster under the hood, you want to use that power, not see how many miles you can get to the gallon.

In other words, with all that power, why all the concern with defense? "Some people don't realize something about punchers," said veteran trainer Tony Ayala

(Continued on page 56)

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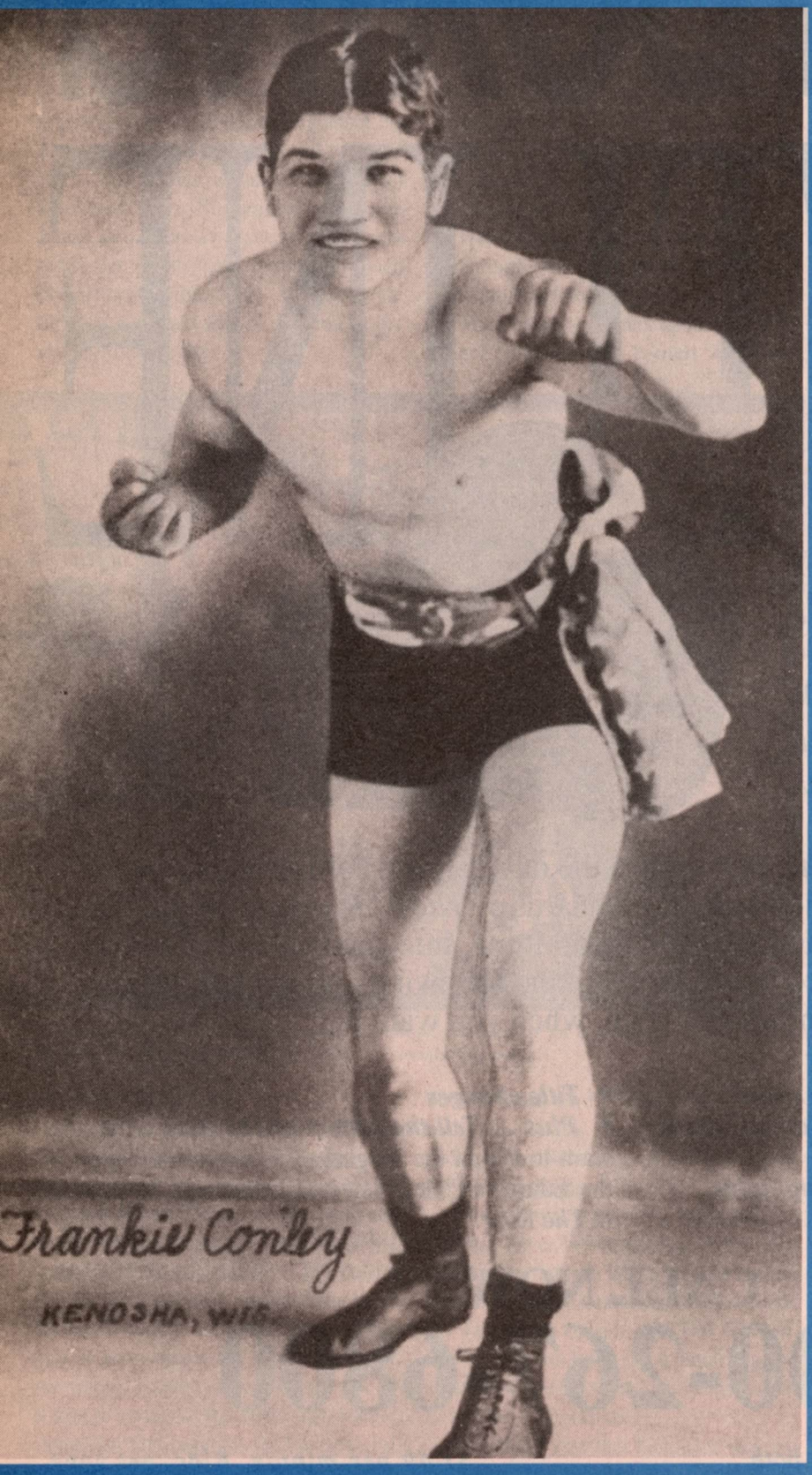


"A 45-Round Fight Is The Only True Test"

By Pete Ehrmann

If he were still around, Frankie Conley wouldn't take as dim a view as most old-timers of the fact that there are currently at least six guys calling themselves the bantamweight champion of the world. After all, back in Conley's day, there were that many guys claiming to be the best bantamweight prize fighter on the globe, too. And one of them was Conley.

But as far as the iron man from Kenosha, Wisconsin, would be concerned, finding that all today's champions had to do for their titles is fight 12 or less rounds would make them indistinguishable from Christy Martin.

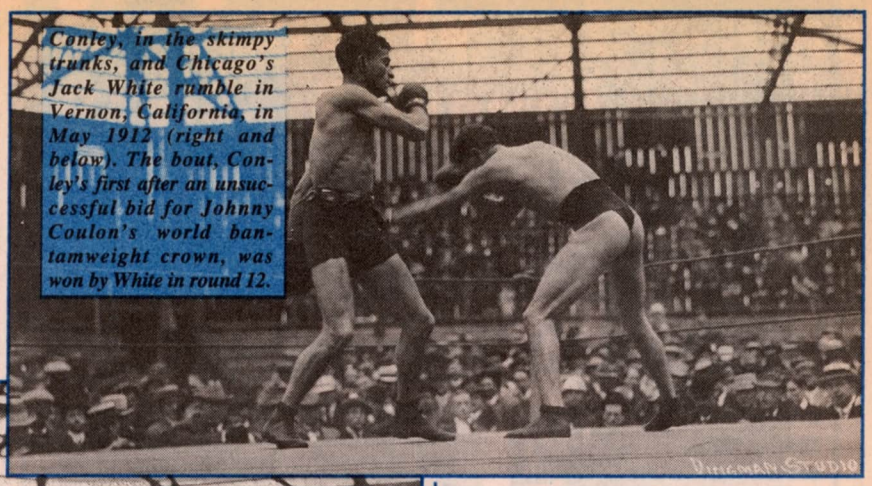
A 45-round fight, Conley once said, was "the only true test of a man's fighting and boxing ability."

That was the scheduled route when Conley met Monte Attell for the bantamweight title in February 1910. Conley starched the brother of featherweight champion Abe Attell in 42 rounds, but his feat was overshadowed by two things. One was that the fight wasn't universally recognized as for the championship of what was then the 116-pound class. The other was that on the same day, in Port Richmond, California, north of the Vernon area where Conley won his title, Battling Nelson and Ad Wolgast punched, bit, and mauled each other for 44 rounds for universal recognition as lightweight champion of the world. (Wolgast won the fight.)

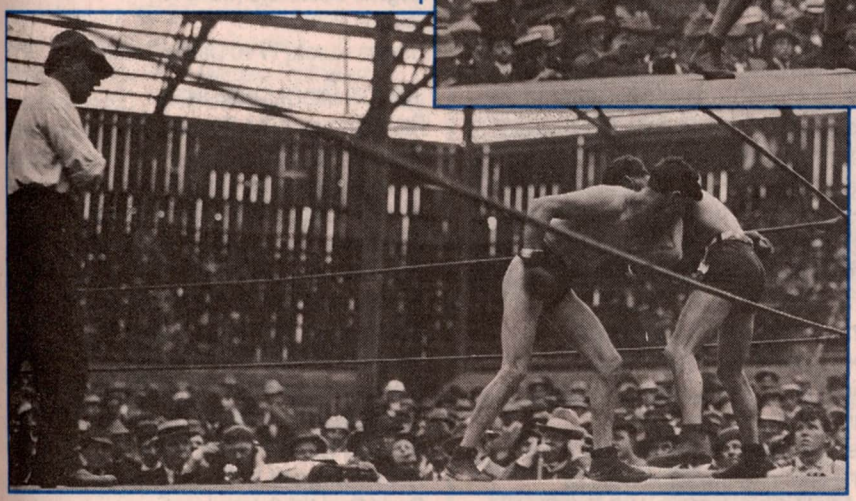
Wolgast and Nelson, both of whom had their brains beaten out in their long ring careers, are regarded today as the epitome of the face-first, no-defense school of iron men who fought in the early-20th century. They were legends, and deservedly so.

But the man born Francesco Conte, who died virtually forgotten, if not unknown, of a heart attack in 1952, and possessed all his marbles until then, almost made those two brawlers look like Gene Tunney.

In fact, the man to whom Conley (whose name was changed after his family moved from their native Italy to Kenosha, an industrial city in southern Wisconsin, when Frankie was a boy) was most often compared with is boxing's most legendary iron man of them all.



Conley, in the skimpy trunks, and Chicago's Jack White rumble in Vernon, California, in May 1912 (right and below). The bout, Conley's first after an unsuccessful bid for Johnny Coulon's world bantamweight crown, was won by White in round 12.



Joe Grim was called "The Indestructible Human" and "The Human Punching Bag" for his ability to absorb a beating. Weighing only about 150 pounds, Grim stood up to the fists of such heavyweights as Bob Fitzsimmons and Jack Johnson, although he, too, died a physical and mental wreck from the cumulative damage he incurred in the ring.

The Milwaukee Sentinel first noted the similarity between Conley and Grim after the latter lost an eight-round decision to Wolgast in Milwaukee in September 1907. According to the newspaper account, "The Michigan Wildcat" gave the "second Joe Grim … an awful beating in the stomach, but [Conley] just smiled and came in for more."

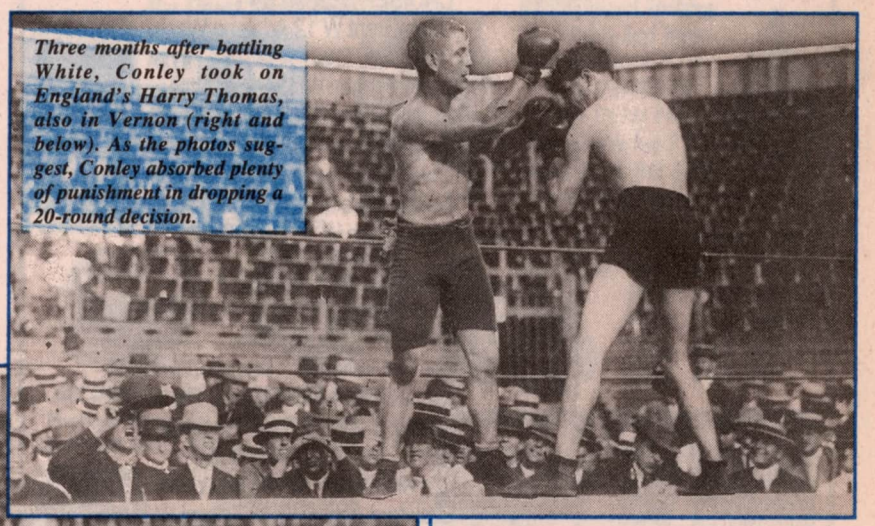
"The walloping he took would have put away most men in his class," agreed *The Milwaukee Journal*. "However, Conley kept coming all the time, and in the eighth round managed to drop Wolgast with a right hook."

In a hair-raising rematch a month later, Conley ate more leather, but again managed to drop the future lightweight champion late in the fight and gained a draw.

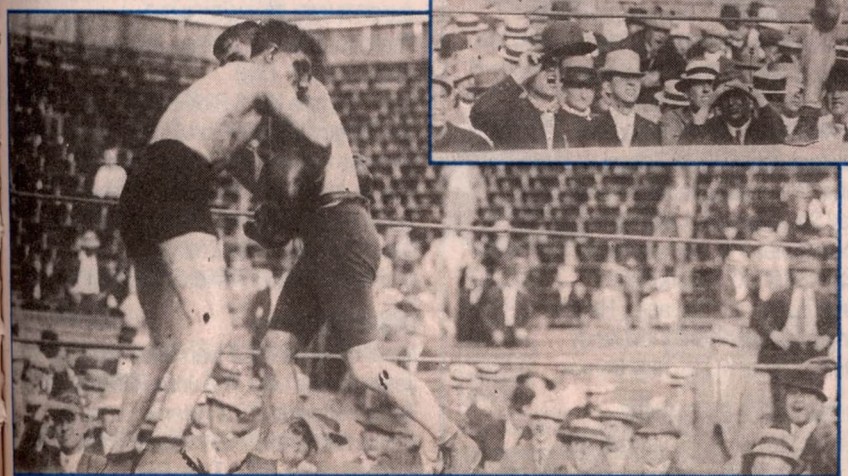
"Conley showed that he can take a world of punishment, and as soon as he gains a little more ring experience is going to be a very dangerous man for boys in his class," warned the *Journal*.

According to the record books, the Wisconsin battler was stopped four times in 81 professional matches. But to his dying day, Conley swore both figures were wrong.

"Actually, I had 500 bouts," he told boxing writer Sam Levy in his final interview. "Only the important ones appear in record books today."



Three months after battling White, Conley took on England's Harry Thomas, also in Vernon (right and below). As the photos suggest, Conley absorbed plenty of punishment in dropping a 20-round decision.



(Continued on page 63)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Evander Holyfield W Disq. 3 Mike Tyson
(Retains WBA Title)
Ike Ibeabuchi W 12 David Tua
Michael Grant KO 10 Al Cole
Herbie Hide KO 2 Tony Tucker
Brian Nielsen KO 3 James Pritchard
Chris Byrd W 10 Frankie Swindell
Frans Botha W 12 Lee Gilbert
Darroll Wilson KO 6 Ron McCarthy
Shannon Briggs KO 9 Jorge Valdes
Ross Puritty KO 10 Joe Hipp
John Ruiz KO 1 Ray Anis
Jeremy Williams KO 3 Jeff Lally
Larry Donald KO 9 Anthony Willis
Terrance Lewis W 10 Levi Billups
Obed Sullivan KO 2 Isaac Brown
Julius Francis W 12 Joseph Chingangu
Gary Bell W 10 Louis Monaco
Greg Page KO 1 Armando Furrubiartes
Iran Barkley KO 10 Gerrie Coetzee
Dwight Muhammad Qawi W 6 Earl Clarke
Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 1 Bill McDonald
Nate Jones KO 4 Willie Chapman
Butterbean W 4 Jason Farley

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Uriah Grant W 12 Adolpho Washington
(Wins IBF Title)
James Toney W 12 Steve Little
Kenny Keene Tech. Win 7 Howard Alston
Juan Gomez KO 5 Valerij Vihorj
Don Diego Poeder KO 10 Terry Ray
Darren Corbett KO 3 Chris Okoh
Dale Brown W 10 Leon Gray

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Dariusz Michalczewski W 12 Virgil Hill
(Wins IBF & WBA Titles)
Lou Del Valle KO 2 Fermin Chirino
Michael Nunn KO 1 Lonnie Horn
Merqui Sosa KO 5 Alex Umarov
Frank Tate KO 2 Gary Butler
Ole Klemetsen KO 3 Eduardo Cruz
Crawford Ashley W 12 Pascal Warusfel
Melvin Wynn W 8 Fredrik Alvarez
Eddy Smulders KO 1 Cliff Nellon
Ernest Mateen W 10 John Scully
Richard Hall KO 7 Mark Peters
Daren Zenner KO 1 Stanley Hughey
Dominick Carter KO 9 Tim Dendy
Antonio Tarver KO 3 Tracy Barrios

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Charles Brewer KO 5 Gary Ballard
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Steve Collins KO 3 Craig Cummings
Joe Calzaghe KO 3 Luciano Torres
Roberto Duran W 10 Jorge Castro
Vincenzo Nardiello KO 2 Tim Bryan
John Mugabi W 12 Jamie Wallace

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Lonnie Bradley KO 8 John Williams
Brian Barbosa KO 1 James Mason
Silvio Branco KO 10 Ricardo Nunez
Glen Johnson KO 2 David Hamilton
Julio Cesar Green KO 9 Earl Allen
Kenny Ellis W 10 Bo James
Rogerio Cacciatore (walkover)
Ricardo Nunez*
Urbano Gurolla W 10 Danny Garcia*

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Raul Marquez KO 4 Romallis Ellis
(Retains IBF Title)
Jose Luis Lopez W 10 Aaron Davis
Yori Boy Campas W 10 Chris Sande
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 1 Ramon Brites
Steve Martinez KO 10 Ron Weaver
Rodney Jones W 10 Fidel Avendano
Jaime Lerma KO 2 Rene Valdes
Tony Marshall W 10 Keith Mullings
Alfred Ankamah W 10 Alfredo Flores
Tony Lopez KO 9 Wilber Kiggundu
Shibata Flores W 15 Eric Holland
Keith Mullings W 10 Donald Stokes
David Reid KO 2 John Long

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya KO 2 David Kamau
(Retains WBC Title)
Oba Carr W 10 Ross Thompson
Julio Cesar Chavez W 10 Larry LaCoursiere
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 3
Roberto Granciosa
Patrick Charpentier W 10 Leroy Owens
Larry Barnes W 10 Benji Singleton
Edwin Rosario KO 3 James Moody
Carlos Palomino KO 1 Rene Arredondo
Joe Rivera W 12 Juan Soberanes
Otilio Villareal W 10 Sean Daughtry
Fernando Vargas KO 2 Bill Burden
Fernando Vargas KO 1 Jim Maloney

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Khalid Rahilou KO 7 Marty Jakubowski
(Retains WBA Title)
David Sample KO 6 Rick Edson
Jan Bergman KO 5 Tito Mendoza
Diobelys Hurtado KO 9 Rocky Balboa
Moses James W 10 Ramon Marchena
Terrance Cauthen KO 1 Robert Scott
David Diaz W 4 Troy Crain
Christy Martin KO 7 Andrea DeShong

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Israel Cardona KO 3 Ivan Robinson
Jesse James Leija W 8 Jose Rodriguez
Tracy Patterson KO 3 Ricardo Vazquez
Carlos Hernandez KO 2 Jose Montes
Carlos Gerena KO 1 Tony Rios
Goyo Vargas KO 9 Khalil Shakeel

Edwin Vazquez W 10 Aaron Zarate*
Acelino Freitas KO 8 Hilario Guzman*

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Genaro Hernandez W 12
Anatoly Alexandrov
(Retains WBC Title)
Robert Garcia KO 5 Angel Aldama
Jesus Chavez W 12 John Brown
Harold Warren KO 1 Jorge Alonso
Floyd Mayweather Jr. W 6 Larry O'Shields

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Angel Vazquez KO 3 Freddy Cruz
Cesar Soto KO 2 Agapito Sanchez
Hector Lizarraga KO 3 Marcelo Rodriguez
Jose Noyola KO 7 Cedric Mingo
John Lowey KO 8 Wilson Santos
Daniel Jimenez KO 7 Nelson Medina
Gerardo Cabrera KO 9 Luis Claudio Freitas*
Moises Cerillos KO 7 Jose Martinez*

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Rafael Del Valle KO 6 Elias Juarez
Al Kotey W 10 Jorge Munoz
Cassius Baloyi KO 2 Jose DeJesus Garcia
Willie Jorrin W 10 Enrique Jupiter
Aristead Clayton W 12 Francisco Rodriguez
Lehlohonolo Ledwaba KO 4 Luyanda Mini

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Sirimongkol Singmanasuk W 12
Victor Rabanales
(Retains WBC Title)
Nana Konadu KO 7 Daorung C. Siriwat
(Regains WBA Title)
Jiro Matsushima KO 7 Joseph Paden
Joe Monzano W 12 Jose Reyes
Johnny Bredahl KO 5 Igor Gerassimov

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Gerry Penalosa KO 9 Seung Koo Lee
(Retains WBC Title)
Oscar Arciniega KO 8 Alberto Jimenez
Cuauhtemoc Gomez W 10 David Vasquez
David Griman W 10 Rodolfo Blanco

FLYWEIGHTS
Arthur Johnson KO 12 Mike Trejo
David Guerault KO 10 Jesper Jensen
Eric Morel W 4 Armando Diaz

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Phichitnoi C. Siriwat W 12 Sang Chul Lee
(Retains WBA Title)
Jesus Chong KO 2 Eric Griffin
Joma Gamboa KO 3 Woo Hee Chang
Shiro Yahiro KO 8 Arman Adinur
Albert Guardado W 4 Ronald Dunlap

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin W 12 Juan Herrera
(Retains IBF Title)

*Semifinal results of Boxcino tournament

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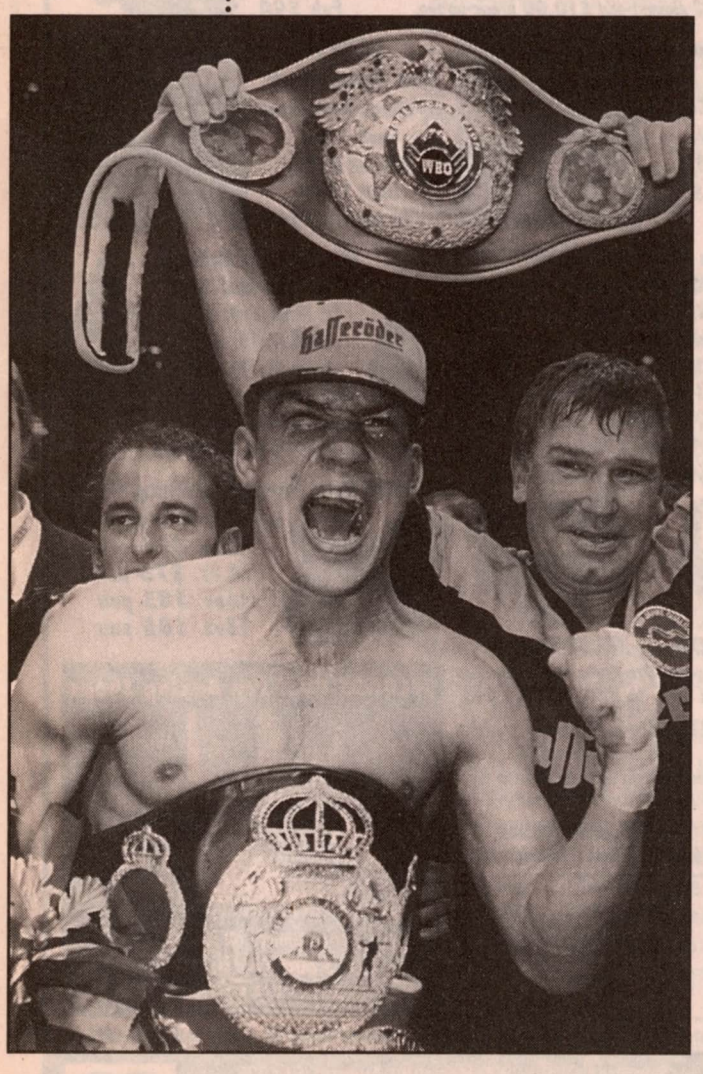
RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Boxing is bigger than ever in Germany, and with Henry Maske having retired, the national hero is the Poland-born Michalczewski, who ended the endless reign of light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill in most impressive style.



Michalczewski (pronounced Mickle-shev-ski) is a bulldog of a fighter, and he pounded on the surprisingly immobile Hill, beating him up for all 12 rounds. That he won the fight on his home turf was only a mild surprise. But that he left Hill looking like a mugging victim shocked American fans.

Michalczewski is undefeated in 34 bouts. He may not be as difficult as Maske, but he's a lot more fun to watch. Let's hope we see a lot more of him on American television, even if it's at the risk of having to spell his name over and over again.

• • • •

Dariusz Michalczewski

Mark Johnson KO 2 Cecilio Espino

Uncasville, Connecticut: Equally lacking in height and recognition, IBF flyweight champion "Too Sharp" Johnson was billed to the audience at the Mohegan Sun Casino and to CBS viewers as one of boxing's best fighters, pound-for-pound. The 5'3" Johnson, who was defending for the third time, backed up the boast by blasting out Espino, with the end coming at 3:00 of the second round. The 26-year-old Mexican-American took the 10-count of referee John Lawson (USA) while on his hands and knees.

The southpaw Johnson, 112, Washington, D.C., ended the fight with two rights to the body and a sweeping right to the head. Espino, 112, Garden Grove, California, probably could have gotten up, but Johnson's onslaught had convinced the challenger a knockout was inevitable.

The judges were William Hutt, Steve Epstein, and Glenn Feldman, all from the USA.

"I expected a tough fight, but I knew if it became a slugging match, I'd have to end it quick," said the 25-year-old Johnson, 32-1 (24), who was cheered on by nearly 100 friends and relatives who had come up from the nation's capital on two chartered buses. "I knew he would come after me, and I didn't want to take any chances."

Johnson and Espino, 33-6-1 (26), were familiar with one another's style, as both had formerly fought for Forum Boxing. Johnson recently left the West Coast promotional group for Cedric Kushner, who outbid the Forum after Too Sharp's contract expired. Johnson received a career-high $125,000 for the Espino fight.

Espino, a natural bantamweight, hoped to muscle Johnson, but it was the champion who physically dominated after a slow first round. Johnson opened up early in the second with rapid combinations, pounding Espino on the inside and avoiding any counters. With one minute left in the round, a Johnson hook had Espino doing a dazed dance, and the champion didn't let up until the knockdown.

Johnson would like to fight the winner of Johnny Tapia-Danny Romero, but with both stating they'll move up to bantamweight after their July 18 showdown, it's unlikely either will be within Too Sharp's weight range. A more likely high-profile opponent is Michael Carbajal, who could rise from junior flyweight.

Promoter: Mohegan Sun, in association with Cedric Kushner Productions

(6-2-97)

Eric Bottjer

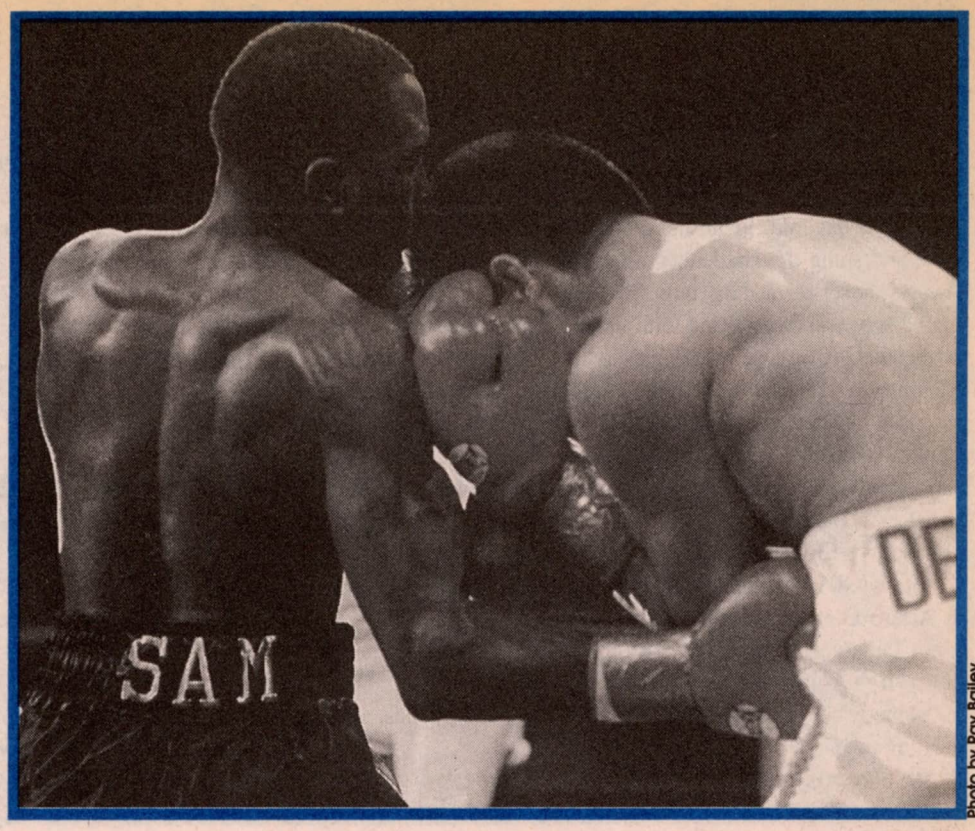


Photo by Ray Bailey

Johnson was far too sharp for Espino

Genaro Hernandez W 12 Anatoly Alexandrov

San Antonio, Texas: WBC super featherweight champion Hernandez' first defense wasn't one for the ages, especially coming off his career-best win over Azumah Nelson. But being that "Chicanito's" win, the co-feature on the De La Hoya-Kamau card at the Alamodome, was a mandatory defense, it's something he's happy to have behind him.

The 31-year-old Hernandez, 129¾, Los Angeles, struggled from the start against Alexandrov, 129¾, Russia via Kazakhstan. "I couldn't find the range because of his awkwardness," the champion said after being awarded a split decision. "In the ninth round, my brother [and trainer, Rudy Hernandez] kept telling me the fight was close, I might even be two points behind. That's why I had to get down and dirty."

That's how Alexandrov, 30, fought from the opening bell. Referee Jerry McKenzie (USA) was kept busy throughout, warning both men for holding behind the head, butting, and excessive mauling in the frequent clinches. It was a tough duel to score, with Alexandrov attempting to overcome the 5'11" champion's five-inch height advantage by taking the war inside and using every trick to faze him. After losing rounds eight and nine on all three cards, Hernandez, 36-1-1 (17), seemed in trouble, but he got himself together over the last three rounds.

Walter Schall (Austria) and Jose Juan Guerra (Mexico) both scored for Hernandez by 116-113. Angel Guzman (Puerto Rico) saw Alexandrov the winner by 115-113. THE RING had Hernandez in front by 116-113.

"It was a great fight for these [San Antonio] fans," said Hernandez. "Unfortunately, I didn't do what I thought I could do,

which was outsmart Alexandrov. He was very tough, very awkward. He came in like a bull, trying to take away something that belonged to me. I just wasn't going to give it to him."

Hernandez tried to keep Alexandrov, 30-3 (12), off early with a jab that scored, but the challenger kept coming. The fourth was one of Hernandez' best rounds, as he tagged Alexandrov with a big right to the chin, found the mark with rights to the head and body, and stung the challenger with a straight left. Alexandrov, however, never seemed discouraged.

The action went back and forth in the middle rounds, with both fighters seeking an edge by doing everything from turning southpaw to hitting low. Alexandrov's left brow was cut in the seventh, but that just made him work harder inside. The unfriendliness threatened to escalate after the bell ending the ninth and 11th rounds, and Alexandrov threw Hernandez to the canvas midway through the 10th. In the end, the champion's work rate (he threw 761 blows to Alexandrov's 618) and cleaner blows allowed him to keep the title.

Afterward, Hernandez said he'd most like to face IBF champion Arturo Gatti in a unification bout. Former champions Jesse James Leija and Nelson were also mentioned. "It really depends on Mr. Bob Arum and Top Rank," Hernandez said of his promoter. "Nobody's an easy fight, but I'm the best at 130 pounds, and I want to prove it."

The bout was televised by HBO.

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-14-97)

Bruce Williams

Gerry Penalosa KO 9 Seung Koo Lee

Lapulapu City, Philippines: A crowd of 50,000 watched hard-punching lefty Penalosa make his first defense, a kayo of Lee at the Mactan Air Base.

The 25-year-old Penalosa, 115, Philippines, dominated from the start, as Lee, 115, South Korea, couldn't cope with the champion's speed or power. In fact, Lee, 25, threw very few punches.

After probing with jabs, Penalosa, 38-1-1 (23), dropped the challenger with a right-left in the closing seconds of the opening round. With Lee growing cautious from the second round on, there were few meaningful exchanges or highlights. The 5'4" Penalosa, two inches shorter than the South Korean, piled up points with great ease, landing jabs and one-twos as Lee, 17-5-1 (13), covered up. The Filipino southpaw accelerated in round six, and early in the ninth, a right-left downed Lee for the count at the 56-second mark. Lee made no effort to beat the count of referee Lupe Garcia (Mexico).

The judges were Tom Kaczmarek, Chuck Hassett, and Hank Elespuru, all from the USA.

This was Lee's third attempt at the 115-pound world title.

(6-14-97)

Joe Koizumi

Yong Soo Choi W 12 Koji Matsumoto

Suwon, South Korea: Rugged infighter Choi kept the WBA junior lightweight title for the fifth time, winning a close but unanimous decision over the southpaw Matsumoto after 12 hot frames at Suwon Indoor Gymnasium.

The 24-year-old Choi, 130, South Korea, might have been overconfident; Matsumoto, 130, Japan, a former OPBF featherweight titlist, was deemed too small to threaten the 5'8" champion. Matsumoto, 27, started well, scoring with lefts and using purposeful movement over the first two rounds. In the fourth, Choi introduced his signature body attack, and in the sixth, he gained firm control by raking the challenger with combinations. Until the 10th, Choi was in command.

Midway through the 10th, Matsumoto, 24-5-1 (13), suddenly stopped fighting, indicating to referee Pinit Prayadsab (Thailand) that he had been thumbed. There was a brief timeout, after which the Japanese, realizing he was behind on points, desperately attacked. Choi, 23-2 (13), fought back strongly in the 12th, and as a result, the decision was well-received.

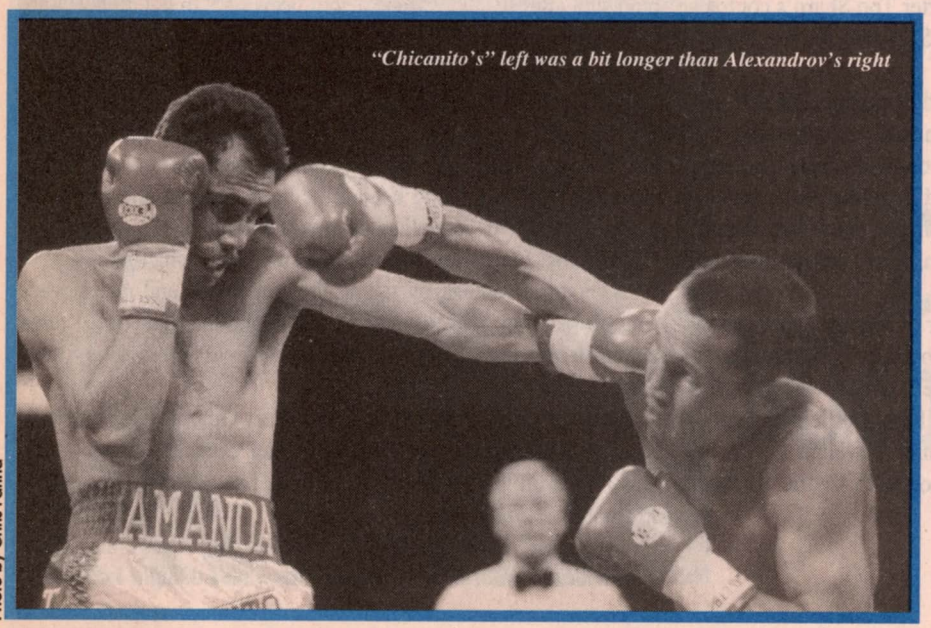
Brad Vocale (Australia) scored 115-113, Arkom Wannasit (Thailand) 116-112, and Ferdinand Estrella (Philippines) 117-114.

This was Matsumoto's second crack at a world title. In 1992, he suffered an 11th-round stoppage loss to then-WBA featherweight king Yung Kyun Park.

Promoter: Former IBF junior featherweight champion Seung Hoon Lee's Kukdong Promotions

(5-24-97)

Joe Koizumi



"Chicanito's" left was a bit longer than Alexandrov's right

Photo by Chris Farina

Dariusz Michalczewski W 12 Virgil Hill

Oberhausen, Germany: Ready and relentless, Michalczewski outworked and overpowered Hill to win the WBA and IBF light heavyweight titles before about 8,000 crazed fans at Arena Oberhausen. It was the 22nd defense of Hill's two reigns as champion.

After the 33-year-old Hill, 173½, Bismarck, North Dakota, boxed sharply in round one, the constant aggression of Michalczewski, 174½,

Hamburg, Germany, made the outcome clear from an early stage. Besieged and bemused, Hill, normally defensively sound, swallowed leather at an alarming rate. His own punches, particularly his jab, lacked snap, and Michalczewski's high guard all but nullified Hill's best punch, a counter hook. Showing a purple bruise under his left eye, Hill looked utterly spent at the final bell.

Afterward, Hill claimed a foot injury, which had brought a postponement (the bout was originally scheduled in April), affected his performance. There is now speculation that he'll fight on at cruiserweight.

None of this could take anything away from the 29-year-old Michalczewski's victory, which was based on work rate, tight defense, and a consistent body attack. For the ecstatic fans, it also amounted to a degree of revenge; last year, Hill issued the first professional loss to German idol Henry Maske.

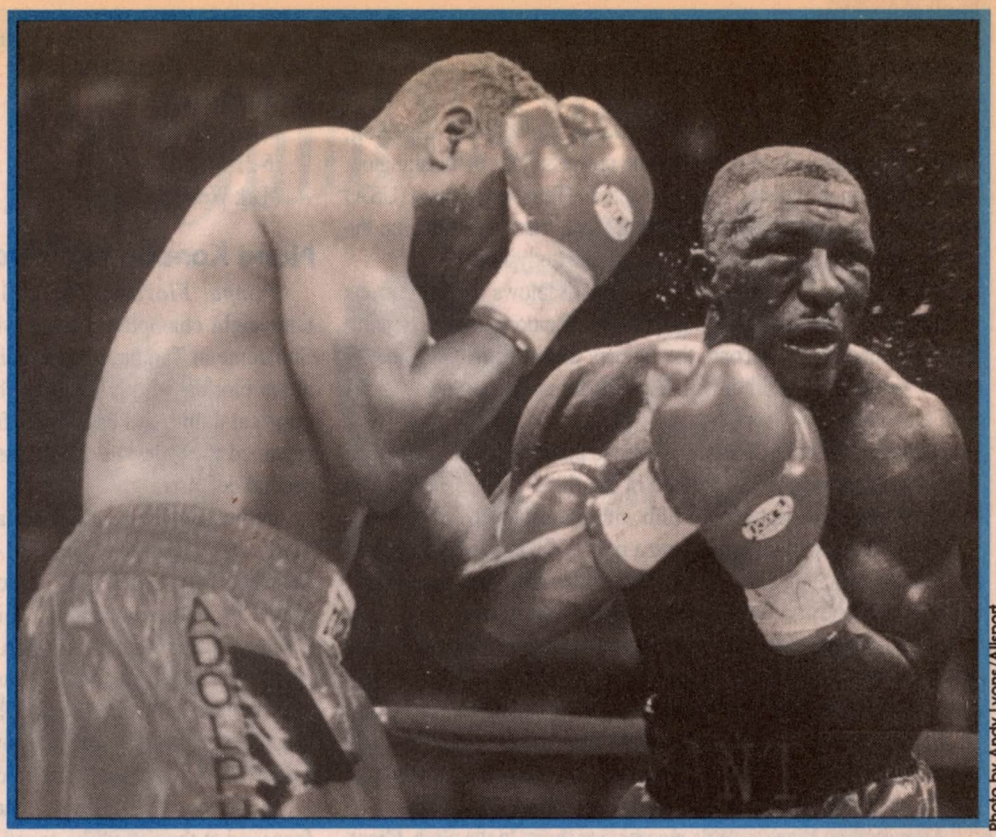


Photo by Andy Lyons/Allsport

"The Bossman" absorbed some bombs in outpointing Washington

Hill's advantages in height and reach amounted to nothing, as his movement was minimal and ineffective. He was repeatedly speared by a ramrod jab, and in the fourth, Michalczewski's punches opened a cut over the champ's left eye. Worse yet, in the fifth, referee John Coyle (England) penalized Hill for punching low.

Hill, 43-2 (20), never rallied, perhaps taking round nine and halving the 12th. At the bell, he was resigned to defeat, and Michalczewski, 34-0 (25), threw his arms into the air. The decision was unanimous, with Marcel Rouloux (Belgium) scoring 118-110, Rogelio Perez (Panama) 117-112, and Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) 116-113. THE RING scored for Michalczewski by 118-110.

Three days after defeating Hill, Michalczewski vacated the IBF title because he had no intention of following a U.S. federal judge's order to defend against mandatory challenger William Guthrie by July 19. A month later, the WBA took its title because Michalczewski had not agreed to dump the WBO title prior to the fight. At press time, the IBF and WBA titles were vacant.

(6-13-97)

Brian Doogan

Charles Brewer KO 5 Gary Ballard

Tampa, Florida: Fighting for the title that had been vacated by Roy Jones, Brewer kayoed a tight and tentative Ballard, winning the IBF super middleweight crown at the University of South Florida's SunDome.

That Ballard lacked confidence was apparent during the final instructions, when he averted Brewer's stare. It didn't help his cause any when, 10 seconds into the opening round, a counter hook staggered him, or when, 20 seconds later, two jabs and a right dropped him on his backside. Ballard fought defensively the rest of the way, and it was miraculous that he lasted as long as he did.

The 27-year-old Brewer, 165, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, continued the onslaught in the third, when six blazing punches sent Ballard, 167½, Newport Beach, California, via Durban, South Africa, into the ropes. Ballard, 30, landed his only meaningful punch in the round, a counter hook that shook the soft-chinned Brewer and forced him to hold.

About a minute into the fifth, Brewer, 29-5 (20), again downed Ballard, 22-3-1 (18), this time with a hook. When the Philadelphian added three big shots, including a conclusive right, Ballard fell again and referee Max Parker (USA) called an immediate halt at the 1:40 mark.

The judges were Rafael Santos (Mexico), Peter Trematerra (USA), and Harry Davis (Canada).

Neither Brewer nor Ballard was rated in THE RING'S top 10 before the bout.

The bout was televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(6-21-97)

Mark Weisenmiller

Uriah Grant W 12 Adolpho Washington

Tampa, Florida: Who would ever have thought that a construction worker from Miami would become a cruiserweight champion of the world? In his third try at the IBF title, "Bossman" Grant outpoint-

ed the heavily favored Washington, winning the title by majority decision in a bruising bout at the SunDome. It was Washington's first defense.

The 35-year-old Grant, 187¼, Miami, Florida, via Kingston, Jamaica, fought inside to neutralize the powerful jabs of Washington, 190, Lexington, Kentucky. It seemed referee Telis Assimentos (USA) was forever separating the fighters, but when there was fighting, the challenger piled up points with uppercuts and bodyshots.

Washington, 29, initially eluded Grant's blows with a curious swivel-hipped movement, but inexplicably abandoned the tactic after the first round. In the second, the fighters traded heavily. "I knew I had to crowd him," said Grant. "He was trying to stay away, but I didn't let him go anywhere."

Delivering booming lefts and overhand punches, Grant seemed on the verge of scoring a knockdown in the third. After a fairly even fourth, Washington captured the fifth with punishing jabs.

In the sixth, the fight turned into a brawl. Having previously been warned for punching low, Grant was scolded for elbowing. A last-minute flurry allowed Washington to remain competitive.

In the seventh, it seemed Washington's plan was to allow the big hitter to punch himself out. Instead, Grant almost knocked the champion out by connecting with seven consecutive uppercuts. At the start of the eighth, Grant's cornermen were slow to leave the ring, and Washington, 26-4-2 (15), ran across the ring, delivering a windmill punch. At the end of the round, both fighters were flailing away.

After sending Washington's mouthpiece flying in the ninth, Grant, 26-13 (24), went for a knockout. He punched with both hands, but Washington, fighting only with heart, refused to go down. The fighters were visibly fatigued in the 10th and 11th and spent most of those rounds in clinches. In a desperate attempt to accumulate points in the 12th, Washington threw punches virtually from bell to bell. It wasn't enough, as Luis Pabon Rivas (Puerto Rico) and Stuart Winston (USA) scored 116-112 and Fred Jones (USA) 114-114.

In the dressing room, Grant, applying an icebag to his swollen left eye, said, "Once it went to the seventh [round], I knew I had it. I was in great shape. It's been a long time coming."

Said Washington, "I lost before I got to the fight because I was overweight. [It was Washington's first fight in 10 months.] But I take nothing away from Uriah. He fought a good fight and won the championship."

Promoter: Don King
(6-21-97)
Mark Weisenmiller

Nana Konadu KO 7 Daorung C. Siriwat

Tampa, Florida: The 200 fans of defending WBA bantamweight champion Siriwat who traveled from Thailand to the SunDome in Tampa to back their hero might as well have shouted at the Florida full moon. From the opening bell, Siriwat threw one punch at a time and backed off from the bulldoggish Konadu, who regained the title at 2:20 of the seventh round. It was Siriwat's second defense.

In their previous battle, Konadu, 37-3-1 (30), and Siriwat (formerly Daorung Chuwatana), 61-6-3 (36), fought so savagely that their bout was halted after 10 rounds because of punishment sustained by both combatants. This time, the 32-year-old Konadu, 117¼, Accra, Ghana, and Siriwat, 116¾, Uttaradit, Thailand, sized each other up for two rounds. Siriwat's supporters tried to rally their man by singing the Thai national anthem, waving mini-flags, and banging cymbals. But the bobbing, weaving champion refused to move close to the quicker, sharper Konadu.

In the fourth, a series of punches brought swelling to Siriwat's face, and at the end of the round, the Thai was so dizzy, he walked to the wrong corner. The fifth and sixth were fairly even, though Konadu gained a slight edge by scoring with a handful of hooks. In the seventh, Siriwat, 29, dropped his hands and Konadu responded with a big left that prompted referee Frank Santore to issue a standing eight-count. After Konadu followed with 10 unanswered blows, Santore stepped in.

The judges were Mark Streisand (USA), Ken Morita (Japan), and Hubert Earle (Canada).

Promoter: Don King
(6-21-97)
Mark Weisenmiller ■

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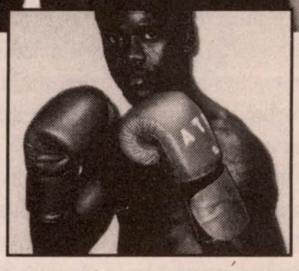

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Tyson-Holyfield

(Continued from page 39)

Yet, it is the opinion of almost everyone in this business that the moment the year is up, Tyson's time will have been served, so to speak, and his sentence done. And he will be back in the ring, post haste.

Indeed, those who make their livings in Vegas—and even those who don't but know the sport of boxing—did not mistake for grandstanding the words of Tyson's attorney, Oscar Goldman, who, following the ruling, told the Associated Press, "I know these fellas. He'll be approved in a year."

The smart money says Goldman is right, and not because the fix is in or because the Commission is somehow subject to the will of unscrupulous Tyson supporters. Rather, it knows, as do the regulators of any major sport, on which side its bread is buttered. What would Michael Jordan have to do to be banned for life from the NBA? Or Ken Griffey Jr. from Major League Baseball?

For any number of reasons, some more palatable than others, Tyson is the biggest draw in the sport. Period.

It is the largely held view that for this reason alone, he will be back as quickly as is legally possible, provided he doesn't do something foolish like take his act on the road to Europe, or to some Harlem street corner at 3 a.m.

So this gives us what is likely to be a 15- to 17-month window—even Don King will need a few months to corral interest in the return, and the bout would then be postponed for the requisite Tyson injury, one would imagine—during which boxing will again find itself without its richest draw.

And what happens during that period may well determine if Tyson will encounter any difficulty at all in getting back his license, not to mention how he will be received by his once-adoring public once he does return, assuming the wise guys are right about it being a done deal. The layoff will also figure heavily into what will occur the next time he squares off against another man in the ring, after all that has happened, and after all that has been said.

See? We told you the story isn't over yet.

The first order of business for those in the Tyson flock will be to institute some damage control measures, since, as the ads will tell you, image is everything. And right now, they don't come any worse than Tyson's.

His fumbling, televised apology to the world notwithstanding, Tyson alienated an entire sport the moment he said to hell with it all and bit down on Evander Holyfield's ear with the kind of malice he used to reserve for overhand rights and, yes, a fairly dependably delivered array of headbutts and elbows.

With the possible exception of the crack management team of Holloway and Horne, there wasn't a single fair-minded Tyson fan left in the building by the time the DQ'd fighter began swinging at the Las Vegas police officers, who had probably thought, like the rest of us, that they were going to see a hell of a fight that night—not be in one. And by the time a still-steaming Tyson got to the runway that would lead back to his locker room, spectators were hurling trash at him from the stands.

Garbage. At Mike Tyson. For a public sports figure, an icon—yes ma'am, even one convicted of rape—it doesn't get much worse.

And this whole reprehensible, senseless, exasperating display wasn't played out in front of the usual calloused boxing junkies who would, without thinking twice, fork over $49.95 to watch two burly drunks in an alley getting into it over the last of the Absolut. This was the richest fight ever. In front of the world. So it would be an understatement to say that in terms of image, there is much work to be done.

Luckily for Tyson, there are few who understand the importance of image better than Mr. King, who himself has some image problems of note these days. Ever-protective of his charge, Dapper Don solicited for Tyson shortly after the fight the services of what is known as—only in America, to be sure—a professional "image-maker," in this case one who worked with presidents Reagan and Bush. Yes, a one-time adviser to presidents is working for Mike Tyson. Sound silly? Tyson has made more money in two years than the last 10 presidents combined. There is big, big money at stake. Unless the wounds can be mended, the gravy train ends here.

"I think his livelihood depends on whether he does and says the right things," said commentator Dave Bontempo. "If Tyson goes on a long do-good campaign and it is perceived as sincere and not contrived, people will accept him back. That will pave the way for a return for him, if he makes the right moves."

One suspects King and the damage control experts will ensure that the right moves are made, and that we will hear about them. If conventional thinking is right and if the image-menders do their job, we can expect to read over the course of the next 12 months stories that reveal Tyson the family man, Tyson the great philanthropist, maybe even Tyson the accomplished cellist.

Who knows? We're also sure to hear that he's receiving psychiatric counseling for his violent tendencies. It's all part of the process, the mending.

"Now that he's left such a bad taste in everyone's mouth, he will have to do those types of things," said Bontempo. "At some point, if people believe in him, they'll be able to build his marketability back up. It's all according to how he handles the opportunity."

So the spin doctors will do all they can to wipe the slate clean and, with King's deep pockets, they will have all the needed resources at their ready. But even if Tyson comes out of this looking like Mother Teresa, this is a fighter we're talking about, not a politician. The right image doesn't help you slip a right hand or dig a hook to the body.

If it did, Sugar Ray Leonard would never have lost to Hector Camacho, and George Foreman would be the undisputed king of something other than muffler commercials. In combat, your opponent doesn't care how many turkeys you passed out on Christmas or how many charitable deductions you claimed on your income taxes.

Tyson will be nearing 33 the next time he slips on a pair gloves for pay, and it is certain that the year he spends away from the ring will do little to help him turn back the clock. There are few things more deadly to a fighter than an extended vacation, and it was clear during the bouts with Holyfield that Tyson was still paying for the time he sat growing rust in an Indiana jail cell.

"That three years in jail did a lot of harm. He wasn't the same when he came out," said trainer Goody Petronelli. "He lost a lot of skills, his timing, and some of his speed. He was only about 50 percent of the fighter who went to prison."

Petronelli has been training and managing fighters in and around Brockton, Massachusetts, for, as he puts it, "30 some odd years." He is best known for taking Marvelous Marvin Hagler to the middleweight title, and currently handles light heavyweight Drake Thadzi.

(Continued on page 56)

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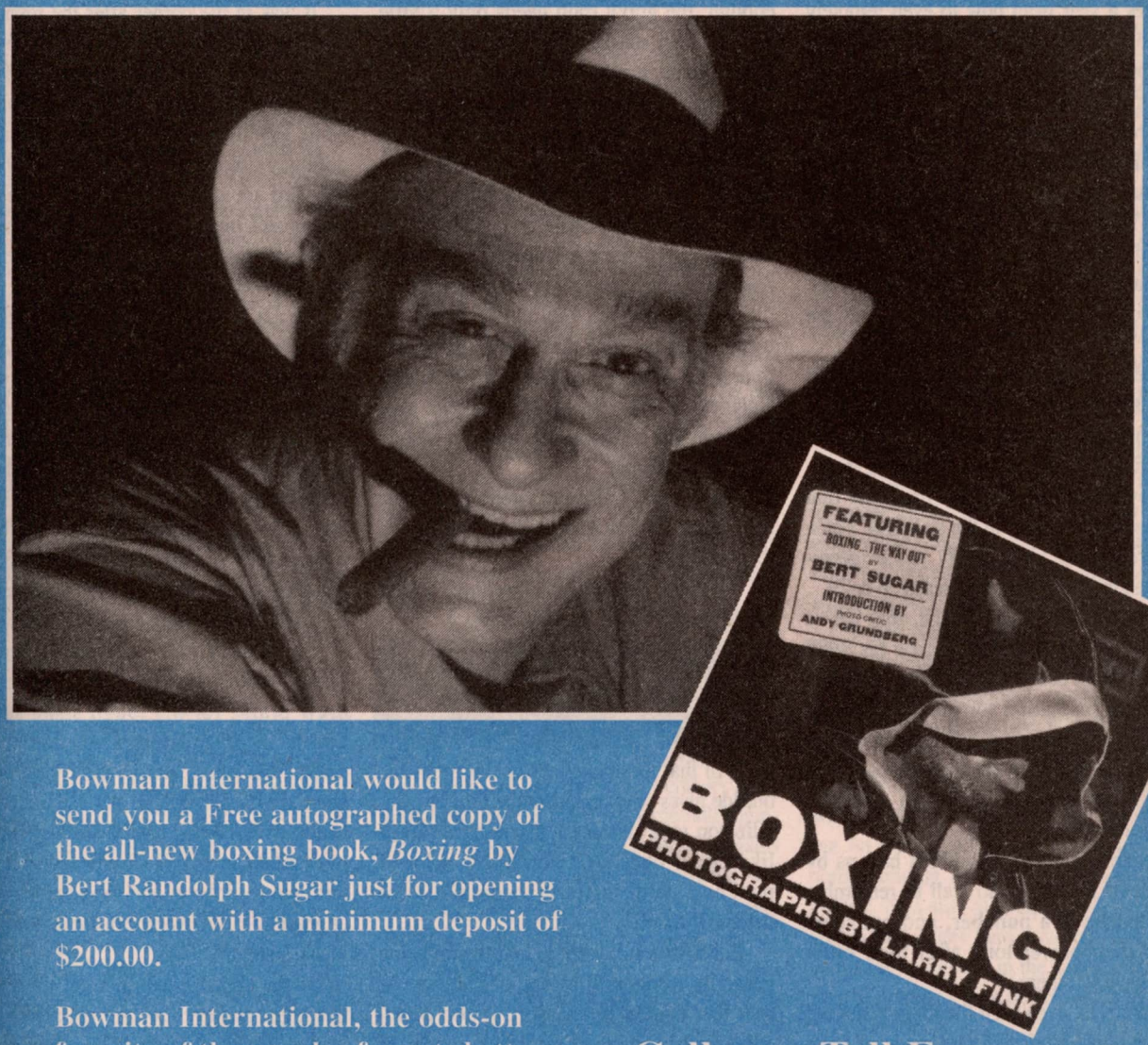

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Tyson-Holyfield

(Continued from page 54)

Petronelli does not expect the Tyson who emerges a year from now to even remotely resemble the force who once tore through the division, regardless of any efforts that are made to keep him in shape.

"They'll probably have him training to keep his timing and conditioning up, maybe even have him spar, but a fighter has to be busy. You've got to fight the real fights," he said. "He's going to be a year older and will have had four years taken out of the prime of his life. He'll never get back to the fighter he was."

There are those in addition to Petronelli who claim already that the Commission's ruling finished Tyson as a fighter. Emanuel Steward and Kevin Rooney are among them.

Steward has maintained for years that fighters who do battle in the style that Tyson does are not built for longevity, and are generally used up by the time they reach 28 or 29.

It should be noted, though, that we've been lamenting for years—since his 1989 kayo of Frank Bruno to be precise—Tyson's waning appreciation for the game's subtleties, how he doesn't move his head enough anymore, or punch to the body enough. And still it is not as though he's been bested by half the division.

Regardless of how humbled he was by Holyfield, we would do well to remember still that he is a puncher, and punchers retain their power long after their other skills have left them.

Moreover, even with the three years out and the quick work that was made of Peter McNeeley, Tyson tore with relative ease through Buster Mathis Jr., Frank Bruno, and Bruce Seldon, each recognizable and highly ranked (if not revered) fighters who simply did not possess the strength or the skill of Holyfield.

One could find support for the notion that if it were not for "Commander Vander," Tyson might still be residing at the top of the current heavyweight heap. Whether that will be the case a year from now is cause for debate.

"He holds his own with the young heavyweights that are out there now," offered Bontempo. "Holyfield's savvy and style are what disarm him, and the young guys won't have that. On the other hand, they probably won't be intimidated by him the way the older, current crop was."

After a year, though, it may matter little how much Tyson has left when it comes time to re-enter the arena. If the stop is brief enough, the gravy train needs only a little nudge to get started again and, remember, this is boxing. It won't take much.

A fight or two against a McNeeley equivalent and people will start to talk again, start to wonder if Tyson can recapture a bit of his old aura, his old power. For no other reason, they'll watch his first fight or two out of curiosity, just to see if maybe he'll snap again. And before they know it, they'll be hooked.

Before long the big-money fight will come, maybe a third match with Holyfield, though the odds are against it. If not against Holyfield, it will come against someone else, and there will be those who refuse to watch, purely on principle.

The rest of us, though, aren't that virtuous. We'll be watching, even if the rest of the world isn't. ■

William Dettloff is a freelance writer based in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

De La Hoya

(Continued from page 42)

Sr. "All that technique and boxing from the outside gives your opponent the time to capitalize on your mistakes. If you have power like Oscar does, and you throw a lot of punches, your offense becomes your defense." Amen.

Enter Steward, who, in addition to being generally recognized as one of the three or four best trainers in the sport, is also decidedly offensive-minded. He is best known, of course, for producing a whole stable of world champions out of Detroit's Kronk Gym, and it should surprise no one to learn that very few of those fighters exhibited anything even remotely resembling a preoccupation with defense.

It is just not in the man's nature to teach retreat over attack, counter over lead. That being said, any influence he was able to assert on his new charge in the few weeks they were together before the Kamau fight, which was held on June 14, was not immediately apparent.

De La Hoya, 24-0 (20), 147, Montebello, California, offered few punches in the opening round, while Kamau, 146¾, Los Angeles via Kenya, landed several long jabs from the outside. More than once the champion found himself with his back against the ropes, and perhaps as a final tribute to the Professor, he used deft head movement to dodge the great majority of the challenger's blows.

It was in the corner after the round that we saw our first indication as to how the philosophical differences between the former and current trainers would manifest. For while Rivero would likely have praised the defensive work De La Hoya had shown, Steward scolded him for letting the challenger back him up, and directed De La Hoya to dictate matters to his opponent rather than allowing them to be dictated.

De La Hoya responded in round two, much to the delight of the crowd in San Antonio's Alamodome, who cheered wildly his every move. With 30 seconds gone, he opened up with a scorching combination—right to the body, left hook to the body, left uppercut to the chin—that startled Kamau, 28-2 (21), and opened the door for further powerpunches. Another combination, tied together neatly with a short left hook, sent the 32-year-old challenger lurching to the canvas.

For Kamau, De La Hoya's speed and power was something new. The Kenyan drew praise for his tough stand against Chavez in 1995, during which he tasted the canvas but once, late in the fight. He had been giving Chavez all the Mexican could handle over the first half of the bout, but alas, most affairs involving Chavez sooner or later turn into marathons, and there are few better at grinding it out over the distance, even now, than Chavez.

In the end, Kamau just got worn down that night, and even so, still got enough done in the minds of many to deserve the nod. Here, though, against De La Hoya's explosiveness, there would be no wearing down, no controversy.

This had nothing to do with endurance. It was not a marathon, but a sprint, and power wins the short race every time. It did look for a spell as though Kamau would get out of the round when De La Hoya's overanxiousness unnecessarily delayed things, but the champion's power prevailed. The two opened up simultaneously near the ropes late in the round, and out of a gaggle of flailing limbs, a series of thudding hooks connected and sent Kamau slowly toward the canvas.

In his haste, De La Hoya fired off four

more rounds at his sinking target, all of which missed. He didn't need them anyway. Kamau never got past one knee.

De La Hoya was his old beaming self again after referee Laurence Cole (USA) reached 10. (The judges were Italy's Sergio Silvi and the USA's David Harris and Gale Van Hoy.) A clean knockout is all it takes to make a puncher smile. Kamau's collapse not withstanding, one was left to wonder what the future will hold for De La Hoya as he continues to meet bigger opponents who, finally, will match his physical dimensions.

It is easy to forget that in the beginning, De La Hoya was a 5'10" lightweight, often times facing junior lightweights who were moving up. As De La Hoya's detractors—the ranks of which are thinning with each victory, it seems—have always pointed out, some of the victories upon which his reputation is built have come against smaller, naturally lighter opponents. Hernandez, for instance, is now, and always has been, a junior lightweight, yet his challenge was for De La Hoya's IBF lightweight title.

And regardless of the fact that Leija now campaigns as a lightweight, it is difficult to remove from one's mind how overmatched he looked during those brief, violent moments he and De La Hoya spent together in a Madison Square Garden ring.

If De La Hoya has been the beneficiary of physical mismatches, would it naturally follow, then, that his power should diminish as his size advantage is lessened? Will the knockouts come as effortlessly?

Surely, De La Hoya would not be the first to watch his kayo percentage plummet as he climbs in weight. There are myriad examples of fighters, some better hitters than De La Hoya, who didn't carry the same power when they took on heavier opponents. Roberto Duran, a human wrecking ball at lightweight, struggled to score knockouts against high-quality junior welterweight opposition, and then more so with every subsequent jump in weight.

Featherweight and junior lightweight legend Alexis Arguello, despite having scored high-profile stoppages against the likes of Ruben Olivares, Ray Mancini, and Alfredo Escalera, couldn't hit hard enough at 140 to deck an Aaron Pryor who had been floored by Antonio Cervantes and Dujuan Johnson.

Even Bob Foster and Michael Spinks, legitimate one-punch knockout artists at light heavy, were largely impotent against heavys.

"The weight doesn't hurt him at all," offered Ayala, who has been training fighters for 30 years in Texas, near where De La Hoya crumpled Kamau. He considers himself to be, like Steward, an offensive-minded trainer. "He's tall and lanky and has the room to put on another 10 pounds and still have the power," he said of De La Hoya. "He's a good puncher by nature and has the frame to add weight without losing anything. That's the key—he's long and lanky. Look at Thomas Hearns."

Indeed, Hearns began his pro boxing life knocking out 147-pounders, and still pops up every now and again and takes out a cruiser or light heavyweight.

The true test of De La Hoya's power as a welterweight may come in his next outing, a scheduled September 13 defense in Las Vegas against none other than Hector Camacho.

Though it is easy to dismiss "The Macho Man" as boxing's resident clown, it is a fact that he has never been stopped, and not just because he remains, at 35, difficult to hit.

His chin has proved durable as well when, in one-sided losses to Trinidad and to a greater degree Chavez, he was tagged cleanly and often and managed to last the distance. The only fighter to own a knockdown against him is Reyes Cruz, who turned the trick in a bout that took place nine years ago.

To score a knockout where Trinidad and others have failed would be a feather of some note in De La Hoya's burgeoning cap, even if it is against a Camacho many consider to be shopworn, not to mention perpetually gun-shy. To be sure, though, Camacho remains Camacho. He's still riding high off the win over Sugar Ray Leonard, and with his newly found focus and aggression, is enjoying a bit of a resurgence.

There are those who see him, with his experience and southpaw style, troubling the young slugger, making him look bad in the way that Whitaker did. It's an interesting thought to ponder, but not one shared by Steward, who said immediately after the Kamau fight that Camacho would be far easier to train for.

Steward has been around a long time. He is a mechanic of the highest order and knows he's got a Ferrari. For his part, De La Hoya smiled wide and knowingly at Steward's prediction. He knows well the power he carries.

One suspects that before long, so, too, will the rest of the world's welterweights. ■

William Dettloff is a freelance writer based in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Ibeabuchi

(Continued from page 24)

fought Tua had bigger names and better records than Ike. But Ike beat Tua, they didn't.

"Ike has one thing on his mind, and that is being heavyweight champion of the world. In his mind it doesn't matter who he fights to get that. But he never asks for an Akinwande or a Foreman. He asks for Holyfield or Tyson. He never thinks of getting anything the easy way."

Ibeabuchi, of course, wants to move forward as quickly as possible. But boxing is not all he thinks about. He talks of eventually returning to college to study electrical engineering, and maybe doing some global missionary work. "I am on a mission from God for several reasons," he said. "Boxing is just part of my mission."

If Cokes has his way, he will pull in the reins a bit. The way he sees it, Tua was tailor-made for Ibeabuchi, and while the victory was awfully impressive, it should mean very little in comparison to what The President will do in the future.

"I don't have to worry about Ike's head getting too big," he said. "I don't think that is possible. He is extremely confident, but not the least bit cocky. Ike has improved in every single fight he was ever in. He is going to continue to improve more and more, even after he wins the title. Now that the secret is out on how good he is, people are gonna come gunning for him. As far as I'm concerned, he's still in school, and Ike understands that better than anybody. He knows that what he showed in the Tua fight is nothing compared to what he will show as champion someday."

Cokes was then asked about a rumor that Ibeabuchi's lineage can be traced to royalty in Nigeria. Cokes laughed heartily and quickly put the rumor to rest. "If he is considered royalty back home, he certainly didn't bring any of that royalty here with him," he said. "Boxing is his life. He doesn't get treated special at the House of Champions, because everybody is special there. He never asks for anything special or extra, and never expects anything he doesn't work real hard to get. He came to this country dirt-poor. The only thing he brought with him was the dream of becoming heavyweight champion of the world. And he's

doing everything right to make that dream come true." ■

Bob Mladinich, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in New York City.

Gloves

(Continued from page 27)

"When it comes to gloves, quality and craftsmanship should be everyone's concern," said Joe Sebergandio, owner of Seconds Out Enterprises, an authorized Reyes distributor that buys the equipment direct from Mexico. "We are dealing with guys' lives and we should make the best glove we can make for these guys. Profitability, exposure, and recognition should be way down on the list."

"Since our amateur gloves are tested for safety, we style our pro gloves after the amateur gloves," said Ben Nadorf, CEO of Everlast. "In reality, they are the same except for the white scoring stripe [on the amateur glove]."

As part of their obligation to produce amateur gloves, Everlast, Ringside, and Tuff-Wear send their products to Wayne State University to be tested for severity indents. Such testing measures the shock absorbency of the glove on impact. The purpose is to see how far the filling of the glove indents and how long it remains indented.

Such testing gives amateur boxing officials an idea of the glove's durability under stress. But in professional boxing, where such a test would seem helpful because of the varying lengths of bouts, there are no such tests.

"We can make our professional gloves whichever way we want," said John Brown, president of Ringside Products. "There is nothing stopping you from producing a pair of pro gloves with very little padding over the knuckle and going out and selling them."

Everlast, Reyes, and Ringside have been the preferred gloves used by pro boxers in the United States over the last decade. There are other equipment manufacturers, such as G&S, Spartan, and Tuff-Wear, but Everlast, Reyes, and Ringside have been The Big Three.

In July 1996, Riddick Bowe chose to wear Grant gloves for his first fight against Andrew Golota. Golota wore Reyes, marking the first time since the Joe Frazier-George Foreman rematch in 1976 that two fighters wore different brands of gloves into the ring. (Foreman did not like the fit of the Everlast gloves issued before the Frazier fight and entered the ring wearing G&S.)

After Bowe-Golota, Grant Elvis Phillips emerged as a player in the glove industry. Other recent entrees are Hitman, based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward, who has designed his own Kronk boxing gloves. But none stirred controversy the way Grant did.

Phillips, 29, began selling Reyes equipment at age 14. He began producing his own equipment in 1991. As a manager, he resurrected the career of Luis Santana. When Santana won the WBC super welterweight title via disqualification from Terry Norris, Santana and Phillips cashed in. That enabled Phillips to increase production and enter the glove market with further capital. His glove is modeled closely to the Reyes make, right down to the logo on the back of the hand.

"I consider our glove a cross between Reyes and Everlast," said Phillips.

As Phillips and his product began showing up at more and more big fights, his relationship with WBC President Jose Sulaiman came into question. While it's been suggested that Sulaiman has helped push the Grant gloves on WBC champions, none of Phillips' detractors would speak on the record about him or his product.

"We are constantly changing our gloves," said Phillips. "We're looking to improve. It doesn't mean we are using fighters as guinea pigs. The protection of the fighter is first and foremost with us. If I can utilize any material that will benefit the safety of the fighter, I will do that. Look at the Everlast gloves back in the '60s. They've changed."

As for his relationship with Sulaiman, Phillips said, "Jose Sulaiman was very helpful in advising us on how to make the glove. He gave us input on the grip and how to protect the hand. I've known Jose since I was 12 years old. He is like a father to me. He did nothing more than advise me on how to make the gloves."

Phillips has a high-profile approach to pushing his gloves. He seems to be everywhere, with more and more fighters, from Roy Jones to Ricardo Lopez, using his product. One of his marketing strategies is the promise to match the color of the glove to the fighter's outfit. Phillips also claims to have made the first pair of pink gloves for women's boxing.

"We are the Baskin-Robbins of boxing gloves," Phillips says.

The selection of the gloves is usually left up to the promoter. Only at the championship level is the fighter able to select the gloves he wants. In title fights, the decision is usually made by the champion. Often times, particularly at small shows, the promoter will select the gloves that are most affordable. Furthermore, economics dictate that gloves are often used several times before they are discarded. All gloves, including new ones, are examined by an athletic commission inspector before they're used.

Regarding equipment, that a fighter is able to select a glove that might give him a competitive advantage is a privilege no other athletes are afforded. It has long been common knowledge in boxing that the Reyes glove is considered "the puncher's glove." The reason is the filling.

The Everlast glove was traditionally filled with horse hair or goat hair. Today, Everlast uses a combination of foam and sanitized goat hair to produce a thicker padding. The glove is often preferred by boxers, not punchers. In the Everlast glove, 80 percent of the total weight is the padding beneath the striking surface. While there is no scientific data or statistical study suggesting the traditional thick Everlast glove produces fewer knockouts, that seems to be the opinion of most in the game.

In the Reyes glove, the padding is entirely foam. The padding is thinner and the foam harder. As a result, it is preferred by fighters who are considered big punchers. That the Reyes glove is thinner is deceiving because all gloves must weigh either eight or 10 ounces. The Reyes glove is clearly longer, which offers extra wrist support.

Some believe that the distribution of the filling of a glove, particularly when it is all foam, can make a difference. A sampling of opinion:

Alberto Reyes, president of Reyes Industria: "Certainly [the boxers'] confirmation speaks for itself. [Our gloves] allow a better adjustment for the hand. The boxers achieve their blows better and with more precision."

Charles Ferrer, president of Hitman: "The harder the glove, the harder the punch. There is no doubt about that. If the foam inside your glove is hard and dense, it will transmit shock, not absorb shock. It's a multiplier effect. It's almost like hitting with a rock."

Joe Sebergandio, Reyes distributor: "As we all know, it's the fighter who is responsible for the knockout. It's incorrect to think that these gloves have anything more or less to do with someone scoring a knockout. If Greg Haugen hit you with an eight-ounce Reyes, Everlast, or Tuff-Wear glove, the damage will be comparable. Look, Greg

Haugen is Greg Haugen with any glove."

Len Zerling, president of G&S Sporting Goods: "The Reyes glove does seem to be packed tighter. It seems a little harder. That's not going to make a difference with a big puncher. If he hits you right, he'll knock you out no matter what. But it could make a difference for a marginal puncher."

THE RING asked five fighters at Gleason's Gym to try on five different brands of boxing gloves and all stated a preference for Reyes. Some of their comments:

"The fit is much better, it's much more comfortable." "It has a more natural grip." "My hand feels more secure inside the Reyes glove." I like the wrist support." "I can do more damage with this glove."

D'Cleto Reyes began manufacturing boxing gloves in Mexico more than 50 years ago. The first time his gloves were used in a world title fight was in 1945, when Mexican Juan Zurita lost the NBA lightweight title to Ike Williams. In 1971, Alberto Reyes began working for his father and now runs the company.

The stitching around the Reyes glove was once believed to cause an abundance of cuts, but the company has since corrected the problem. Another feature is the nylon repellent lining, which keeps sweat from being absorbed and prevents the glove from getting heavier. The popularity of Reyes has led competitors to design similar versions. Ringside now has a pro model very similar to Reyes.

"We made what we felt were fairly safe pro gloves," said Brown. "But nobody wanted to use them. The reason? You couldn't knock anybody out with them. So we had to try to come up with the best of both worlds."

That turned out to be a glove that contained the same padding as before, but was cut in the same mold as the Reyes glove and featured the Reyes grip. Ringside has gone a step further in reinforcing the wrist area by including rolling foam on either side of the wrist.

One skeptic of the puncher's glove theory is Ratner. "If that's true about Reyes, then why does Mike Tyson insist on using Everlast?" he asked. The answer, according to Phillips, who has tried to persuade Tyson to use his gloves, is twofold. Firstly, Tyson uses Everlast because it was mentor Cus D'Amato's favorite glove. Secondly, Tyson believes in observing boxing tradition, wearing the brand of gloves used by many champions of yesteryear.

Tyson now has a new Everlast model to choose from, designed very much like the Reyes glove. Everlast spent 18 months designing the glove, which is advertised as having a layered foam filling and is longer than the classic Everlast glove.

"Still, the biggest problem is that there is no standard," said Hitman's Ferrer. "How can you have one glove that is almost filled with all horse hair and another that is filled with rock-hard foam?"

***

In the rush to satisfy customers, it is feared that the safety of the boxer may be ignored. "If you have a tainted glove or an inferior glove, you can hurt your opponent

(Continued on page 60)

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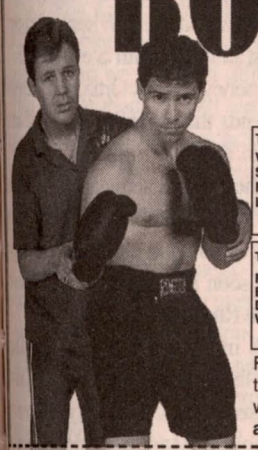

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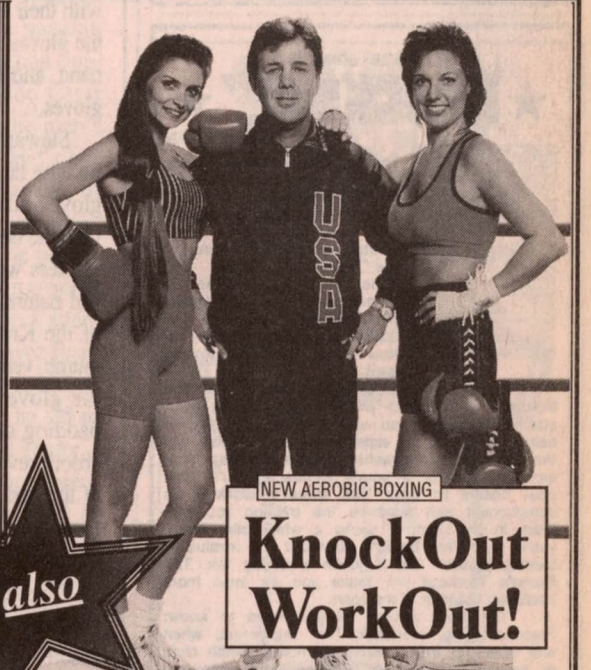

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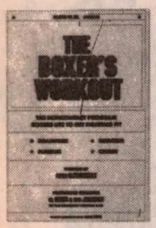

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Gloves

(Continued from page 59)

drastically," said Bruce Silverglade, who runs Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. (Silverglade is a former president of the New York Metropolitan Amateur Boxing Federation.) "If the padding or the horse hair shifts slightly, serious damage can be done."

For many years, boxing gloves contained a natural filling, such as horse hair or goat hair. Then Reyes came along with foam padding and changed the industry. Over the course of a fight, horse hair gets matted. It can move inside the lining of the glove, and it does not rebound well after repeated usage.

"We use no horse hair whatsoever," said Ferrer. "Horse hair was the precursor to foam. You can now do things with foam that you couldn't before. You get better resiliency and shock absorbency than you do with natural fillers."

Steward feels he has a viable alternative with the Kronk glove. He uses a layer of foam on the outside, a layer of horse hair, and then a second layer of foam.

"All my Kronk fighters had problems with their hands," said Steward. "I've studied the gloves and I've studied the injuries to the hand, and I thought I could design my own gloves."

Steward advocates the use of horse hair because he said the foam rubber used in some gloves vibrates and can damage the hand. Until he designed his own glove, he made his fighters wear Everlast gloves because they had natural filling. Among the other features of the Kronk glove is padding around the thumb, ventilation holes so the material inside the glove does not get soggy, and extra padding over the backside of the hand to absorb reverberations produced by the impact of the punch. Steward said he has found that most hand injuries occur in the metacarpus, the area between the knuckles and the wrist.

According to Ferrer, the Hitman glove contains porous foam that breathes and absorbs shock. "What we have tried to do is take the best of all the gloves and put them into one glove," he said. "Hitman is the Ferragamo of boxing gloves," he added, drawing a comparison to the fine Italian leather shoe company.

In designing the Hitman glove, Ferrer consulted the ergonomic studies department of the University of South Florida. He wanted to better understand how the ergonomics of the hand relates to the fist. He prides himself on the natural anatomical fit of the glove.

"When you slip our glove on, it slips on very well," said Ferrer. "The fit is the key thing. Our glove is comfortable. The shape of the glove lends itself to the making of a fist. It doesn't take much pressure to keep the glove closed. You don't have to force it closed. And when you strike with our glove, you are always hitting with the strike face."

The Hitman glove has also been approved for use on the amateur level. Ferrer did not send his glove to be tested at Wayne State, but rather to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. The product has been approved by the Amateur International Boxing Association and was used in all 192 bouts of the European amateur championships this June in Birmingham, England.

Silverglade would like to see some sort of national governing body set safety standards for pro gloves.

"If only approved gloves can be used in the amateurs, why can't we do the same thing in the pros?" he asked. "USA Boxing in Colorado Springs sets the standards in the amateurs, and the gloves are sent to a national laboratory. The pros should have the same standards and the same testing. I hope it doesn't take a tragedy to cause change."

But what should be considered in adopting safety standards for gloves, and who should determine those standards? When making gloves, Everlast consults with Steward, Lou Duva, Kevin Rooney, Carlos Ortiz, and Larry Holmes, and sends the gloves to be tested at Gleason's Gym and Joe Frazier's Gym in Philadelphia. There was a seminar on boxing gloves at the WBC's recent medical congress. While the WBC's Eduardo Lamazon said the findings would soon be published, they were not ready as THE RING went to press.

One expert in the area is Dr. Charles Melone, one of the foremost hand surgeons in the country. Based in New York City, Melone lists Gerry Cooney, Mark Breland, Junior Jones, and Arturo Gatti among his patients. He's operated on a host of other boxers, as well as baseball players such as Gary Sheffield and Don Mattingly.

"Hand injuries should be evaluated when considering any kind of regulation for the glove," said Dr. Melone. "The mechanism of injury should be studied. The sites of injury should be protected to try and offset the mechanical methods of injury."

Added Sebergandio: "I think the answer might be if you had a little bit of a heavier glove. You would still see knockouts and some big blows being absorbed. But I wouldn't step in line to say you should use a heavier glove. To me, that's not our position. That should be a medically addressed position. But don't forget, we are not too far removed from a time when they used six-ounce gloves. Who's to say they are not going to look at eight-ounce gloves in 10 years and feel the same way about them as they did six-ounce gloves."

According to Ratner, the Attorney General for the State of Nevada said the athletic commission cannot endorse one glove as being safer than another without the presence of scientific data.

"The only thing we can really do is weigh the gloves," said Ratner. "I would love for all these gloves to be tested. All I really want is for the fighters' hands to be protected."

That is all everyone in the glove business should want. ■

Robert Cassidy, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is a former associate editor of this magazine.

Mismatches

(Continued from page 34)

Its matchmaker, Carl Moretti, explains why: "Ron Katz doesn't have handcuffs on, like some others in his position. I'm not saying I do, but we just do it differently. Before Dan [Duva] died, he told me, 'Don't worry about being the best matchmaker in boxing. Just be the best matchmaker for Main Events.' And my job at Main Events is developing talent."

Moretti adds that name-fighters on his undercards aren't usually matched in competitive bouts for several reasons. Most of them are on the verge of big-money fights, and it would be stupid to risk them in an off-TV match. Moreover, there's little cash for Moretti to offer an "opponent." Even if he wanted to make a truly competitive fight, he finds himself financially handcuffed.

"When we're building our fighters, we know they're pretty much going to win," Moretti says. "We try to mix blowouts with guys who will go rounds.

"When we make a move with a guy and put him on TV, we'll make a better match. For example, we just had Vernon Forrest in with Pedro Saiz. Now we knew Forrest was probably going to win, but Saiz is tough, and it made for a good match. We could have made the same match on one of our undercards, but only a few people would have seen it and it would have been a waste."

While matchmakers like Katz and Moretti go about their jobs differently, the end result is usually the same: The cowboys beat the Indians. The prospects, on their yellow-brick road to paydays, beat the opponents. Thankfully, there are rare exceptions. (See clubfighter Harold Bennett beating 30-0 prospect Freddie Ladd.) But if you don't think boxing is more show than sport, think again. The "fix" is in, and always has been. Just ask those who make and promote the matches. ■

Eric Bottjer is a freelance writer and frequent contributor to The Ring. He has also worked as a matchmaker, including a stint with America Presents.

Hall of Fame

(Continued from page 31)

With King's entourage, it seemed that boxing champions outnumbered fans. Everywhere you turned, you'd bump into a champion. In at least one case, the guest list provided for a light moment. The museum closes prior to and during the induction ceremonies. However, one guest, Julio Cesar Chavez, was allowed in to use the men's room. Seconds turned to minutes, and a line formed outside the door. Finally, one of those in line made an urgent plea: "Chavez—hurry up, man!" Then he pounded on the door with the lightning-quick speed that had gotten the Mexican's attention seven years earlier. When Chavez finally exited, he went to the body, just as he had seven years earlier. Only this time he did so with a smile and a hug for Meldrick Taylor.

Indeed, the Hall has become the epicenter of boxing. The roads that lead to Canastota become more crowded each year with not only fans, but individuals representing all facets of the industry. Unlike the action in the ring, these roads are paved with good intentions. Perhaps Leonard summed it up best: "I have received numerous awards, but I can honestly say this is the most prestigious award I've received in my entire life. This is my first time here, but it won't be my last." ■

Ed Maloney, a frequent visitor to Canastota, is a former associate editor of The Ring.

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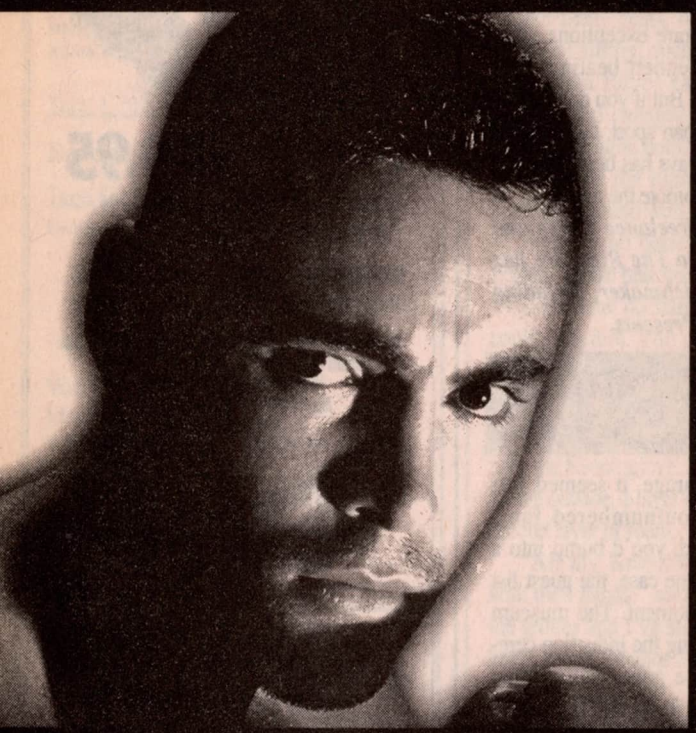

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Conley

(Continued from page 45)

As for the fights in which he wasn't around for the final bell, Conley acknowledged only his bout vs. "Mexican" Joe Rivers, who stopped him in 11 rounds in 1912. "But I wasn't counted out!" he insisted.

Conley and Rivers had fought to a 20-round draw earlier. In spite of the fact that Rivers, a lightweight, had a decided size advantage, it was a typical Frankie Conley effort. "With lowered head and thrashing arms, Conley met Rivers in the latter's corner at the opening of every round," said one newspaper account.

Future junior lightweight champion Johnny Dundee was credited with a 19th-round stoppage of Conley in November 1912. Sitting ringside at the bout was Fireman Jim Flynn, the heavyweight contender who was himself a renowned sponge for punishment in the ring. "That little fellow," he said of Conley afterward, "took a beating that would have sent a heavyweight to the hospital. He's the gamest kid in the world."

Before his marathon title match with Attell, the Wisconsin boxer said, "I feel certain that the only thing that will interfere with Attell is the fact that there will be too much Conley."

Later, Conley recalled the match: "It was quite a fight, believe me. The referee didn't touch us once in 42 rounds. I floored Monte twice in the 15th round, once in the 40th, and twice in the 42nd before he finally took a 10-count."

Promoter Tom McCarey gave Conley a diamond-studded belt for winning, and the boxer bought himself a new satchel in which to carry it home to the hero's welcome he received in Kenosha. Up until then, his only recorded loss was to Wolgast in that Milwaukee fight. After Monte Attell, he fought a series of 10-rounders because nobody but Conley enjoyed fighting for 135 minutes. Ten rounds was barely enough time for him to get warmed up. After he looked horrible against Charley White in Milwaukee, a reporter noted that Conley, "had as much right in a 10-round bout with a clever and strong youngster as a Percheron had on a racetrack."

But in a 20-round match against featherweight champion Abe Attell, who was out to avenge his brother's loss, Conley was his old self. Putting his head down and his gloves up, he earned a draw against the clever Attell in November 1910.

The other major bantamweight title claimant then was Chicago's slick Johnny Coulan, whom Conley was perfectly willing to fight if the bout were scheduled for his favorite 45-round distance. Coulon said no to that, but yes to a 20-rounder and gained universal recognition by winning a decision over Conley in February 1911.

Said the wire service report of the fight, "Conley was game to the finish, and the 6,000 people about the ringside were all willing to concede that had the battle been over the marathon route of 45 rounds that Conley would have been returned a victor."

One of the craftiest boxers of that era, Coulon again bested Conley in a 20-round rematch in Los Angeles a year later. Call it a tooth-as-nail bout.

"Conley tried butting me," recalled the Chicago boxer who, like Ad Wolgast, would call Conley the toughest man he'd ever faced. "I had a tooth longer than the others, and as sharp as a tiger's fang. I must've made 20 holes in Conley's head before he quit butting."

Conley fought all over the country until 1919. He also tried his hand at bullfighting under the name Don Panchito. This came to be after the matador at a Mexican bull ring wondered why such a great fighter was content to test himself against mere human beings.

One of the most famous fighters of his time, the spotlight on Conley was virtually extinguished upon his retirement from the ring. He was a laborer at a Kenosha mattress factory when death came at age 62. But unlike the better-remembered iron men like Wolgast, Nelson, and Grim, Conley was comfortable and in his right mind to the end. "I saved some money. I own property and enjoy life," he said.

He especially enjoyed the memory of those grueling long-distance fights at which he excelled because of his almost inhuman ability to absorb punches.

"I was," Frankie Conley would remind people, "tough and strong for a little guy." ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

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Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

No one who visits the International Boxing Hall of Fame during induction weekend enjoys it quite as much as collectors. I'm not talking about those slobs who chase the fighters down with duffel bags full of boxing gloves to sign. Nor the guys who shove 20 8x10s in front of some aging pugilist in hopes of making $5 each off resale. Those guys aren't collectors. They *pose* as collectors, but they're only in everyone's way. They are fast-buck mongers who wouldn't know a right hook from a double-cross.

Let me give you the perspective of a true collector. Induction weekend starts for collectors on Thursday. This year I arrived at the Days Inn across from the Hall at about noon. I drove past three guys with notebooks spread out on the trunk of a car. They were eagerly perusing old photos. I saw a smiling Frank McClain in the parking lot, and he said, "Come to the room." I hastily parked the rental car and entered "Philly" Frank's room. It was crowded with folks who were going through a terrific array of programs, posters, tickets, cards—you name it. It was like old home week in there; you were able to find more boxing stuff than in an entire National Sports Collectible show.

While I was cleaning Frank out of his old programs, including a Robinson-Fusari beauty, about 10 other collectors cycled through. This was just the start. Over the next 48 hours, mucho dinero changed hands among 30-40 collectors in cars, hotel rooms, the bar at Graziano's, over dinner, and at McDonald's and Arby's. And then, on Saturday, there was the collectors show. Even more dealers laid out the old and new, and the crowd was the biggest yet.

Sure, there are free autographs, but who cares? It's seeing all this vintage memorabilia that attracts collectors. At the show, I picked up an 1882 biography of John L. Sullivan, a signed Corbett piece, and a broadside of a boxing exhibition by Samuel O'Rourke in 1844! O'Rourke once fought Deaf Burke in New Orleans, and Burke was almost killed by the ruffians who were supporting his opponent. He escaped on horseback. And you thought the Bowe-Golota I fight was bad.

Of course, the collectors do like to get an occasional autograph, but if that's what you come for, you might go home disappointed. Every time Marvin Hagler shows his face at the Hall, he runs from autograph-seekers. This year, Sugar Ray Leonard, an inductee, was somewhat accessible during the weekend. One thing is for certain: The fighters who have been there often are much more accessible, like Aaron Pryor and Alexis Arguello, or Carmen Basilio and Gene Fullmer, or Bob Foster and 1997 inductee Jose Torres. These gentlemen have learned that being free with one's signature keeps the autograph slobs away because they can't sell what is given away. But I suspect they mostly sign autographs because they love the fans and do not want to disappoint them. Fortunately, fans give them some room.

This year, Don King was inducted, but spent very little time in Canastota, preferring to party with a host of his champions and former champions in Syracuse. I do not know if autograph-seekers were successful there. Even without King's crew, there were more than 30 champions in Canastota.

Muhammad Ali attended the induction ceremonies on Sunday. Hall of Fame personnel had him pretty well roped off, so not much signing went on. But everyone got to wave and take pictures. All the King's men showed up in limos and buses just before the induction, and some stopped to sign autographs. Frankie Randall, Wilfredo Vazquez, Larry Holmes, Julio Cesar Chavez, Frankie Liles, and a host of others were in attendance.

Many of us go for the entire weekend experience. I learned several years ago to aim for a couple of key autographs as souvenirs and settle back and enjoy the ride. My biggest kick is my fellow collectors. They are a varied group from round the world, and they've taught me that you can just have one thing in common with someone and that's enough to form a lasting friendship. I have made many friends in Canastota, and if the boxers sat out the weekend, I'd still have to be there.

The International Boxing Hall of Fame offers a collectors package that includes hotel room, a few meals, and tickets to all weekend events. At a bit more than $300, it's a real bargain. And director Ed Brophy and his staff go all-out to make everyone feel at home. Put the first weekend in June on your 1998 calendar. I hope to see you next year. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collectors' News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBC ratings were compiled as of May 1997, the WBA ratings as of June 1997, and the IBF ratings as of July 1997.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Akinwande (GB)	1	–	–
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	2	2	7
David Tua (NZ)	3	12	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	4	5	9
Andrew Golota (POL)	5	4	10
Ray Mercer (USA)	6	–	6
Francois Botha (SA)	7	1	4
Corrie Sanders (SA)	8	3	3
John Ruiz (USA)	9	6	–
Brian Nielsen (DEN)	10	–	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	13	7	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (NIG)	30	8	12
Jerry Ballard (USA)	27	9	–
Adilson Rodriguez (BRA)	–	10	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Obed Sullivan (USA)	16	–	5
Chris Byrd (USA)	15	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	5	–
Torsten May (GER)	3	6	7
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	4	2	–
Johnny Nelson (GB)	5	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	6	3	11
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	7	–	3
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	8	–	–
Chris Okoh (GB)	9	–	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	10	–	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	7	–
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	8	5
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	11	9	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	23	10	9
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	26	–	4
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	6
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	8
Tiwon Taylor (USA)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Montell Griffin (USA)	C	–	–
Vacant	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Roy Jones (USA)	1	2	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	6	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	3	4	7
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	4	–	6
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	7	5
Merqui Sosa (DR)	6	11	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	7	8	12
Chris Eubank (GB)	8	10	11
Richard Frazier (USA)	9	12	10
Mark Prince (GB)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	1	3
William Guthrie (USA)	–	3	1
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	5	4
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	9	2
Ray Berry (USA)	24	–	8
Richard Hall (USA)	–	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Robin Reid (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	14	–	C
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	1	6	3
Thulane Malinga (SA)	2	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	3	–	–
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	4	–	9
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	5	1	6
Joe Calzaghe (GB)	6	–	5
Henry Wharton (GB)	7	–	–
Chris Johnson (CAN)	8	11	–
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	9	3	7
Eric Lucas (CAN)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	15	2	4
Leif Keiski (SWE)	30	4	–
Robert Coehlo (BRA)	–	5	10
David Starie (GB)	29	7	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	12	8	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	28	9	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Willie Monroe (USA)	–	–	8

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	8	5
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	4
Paul Vaden (USA)	4	3	3
Julian Jackson (USA)	5	7	–
Richie Woodhall (GB)	6	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	7	–	–
Glen Johnson (USA)	8	2	11
Brian Barbosa (USA)	9	5	6
Glenn Catley (GB)	10	–	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	19	1	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	21	4	–
Robert Allen (USA)	13	6	7
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	15	9	–
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	22	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	–	8
Rogerio Cacciatore (BRA)	24	–	9
Alex Zaitzev (RUS)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	C
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	1	11	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	2	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	3	2	–
Said Bennajem (FRA)	4	–	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	5	6	–
Ernie Artango (AUSTRL)	6	–	–
Faouzi Hattab (FRA)	7	–	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	8	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	9	1	3
Chang Taek Kim (KOR)	10	–	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	3	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	4	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	5	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	–	7	–
Jason Papillion (USA)	22	8	4
Kevin Kelly (USA)	–	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Mark Breland (USA)	–	–	5
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	–	6
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Adrian Dodson (GB)	18	–	8
Ryan Rhodes (GB)	20	–	9
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	3	1
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	2	2	3
Derrell Coley (USA)	3	4	7
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	10	–
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	5	1	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	6	–	–
David Kamau (KEN)	7	–	–
Robert West (USA)	8	–	–
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	9	–	–
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	10	–	10
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	5	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	6	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	12	7	–
Andrew Murray (GUY)	21	8	–
Romallis Ellis (USA)	–	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	2
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	4
Hitonon Sato (JAP)	–	–	5
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	6
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	8
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	**C**	**–**	**–**
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vince Phillips (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	2	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	3	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	5	3	2
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	6	–	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	7	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	8	–	9
Reggie Green (USA)	9	–	–
Ray Oliveira (USA)	10	7	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	4	3
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	11	5	–
Viacheslav Yanovsky (KAZ)	–	6	–
Marty Jakubowski (USA)	–	8	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	9	6
Jose Barbosa (VEN)	–	10	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	1
Jermal Corbin (USA)	–	–	4
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	5
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	7
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	8
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Phillip Holiday (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	2	3	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	4	1	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	5	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	6	–	–
Jimmy Rangel (COL)	7	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	8	–	3
Marco Rudolph (GER)	9	–	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	10	5	–
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	16	2	2
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	13	4	11
Angel Mona (FRA)	23	6	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	7	8
Samir Cherrad (FRA)	19	8	–
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	9	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	10	9
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	26	–	1
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	4
Israel Cardona (USA)	–	–	5
Luis Flores (COL)	24	–	6
Pete Taliaferro (USA)	–	–	7
Wilson Palacio (COL)	22	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Arturo Gatti (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	1	6	–
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	2	–	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	3	5	1
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	4	–	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	5	7	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	6	11	10
Douglas Villarreal (COL)	7	–	–
Jorge Paez (MEX)	8	–	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	9	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	3	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	4	4
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	8	–
Raul Franco (MEX)	–	9	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	10	–
Harold Warren (USA)	17	–	2
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	5
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	6
Barry Jones (GB)	–	–	7
Fabien Lorcy (FRA)	–	–	8
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Cuahtemoc Espinosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Naseem Hamed (GB)	**11**	**–**	**C**
Carlos Rios (ARG)	1	1	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Javier Beleno (COL)	3	8	3
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	4	–	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	5	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	6	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	7	–	–
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	8	–	–
November Ntshingila (AUSTRL)	9	7	4
Jose Noyola (MEX)	10	–	–
Yober Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	5
Frederic Perez (FRA)	21	4	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	5	–
Hector Arroyo (PR)	–	6	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	22	9	7
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	–	10	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	2
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	–	6
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	8
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	9
Edward Barrios (COL)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Erik Morales (MEX)	1	2	9
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	3	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	4	3	8
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	5	–	–
Enrique Jupiter (MEX)	6	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	7	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	8	–	6
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	9	9	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	10	–	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	1	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	13	4	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	5	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	6	2
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	7	–
Spencer Oliver (GB)	14	8	5
Michael Brodie (GB)	22	10	–
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	3
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Valdir Matias (BRA)	–	–	7
Pablo Osuna (COL)	27	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Siromongkol Singmanasuk (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Nana Konadu (GHA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	2	3	–
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	–	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	4	–	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	5	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	6	10	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	7	–	6
Setsuo Kawamasu (JAP)	8	–	–
Shaszi Nitta (JAP)	9	–	7
Adan Vargas (MEX)	10	–	8
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	4	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	5	1
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	6	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	–	7	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	11	8	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	19	9	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	25	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	20	–	3
Wilson Alcorro (COL)	–	–	4
John Michael Johnson (USA)	12	–	5
Fernando Montilla (PHIL)	–	–	9
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	10

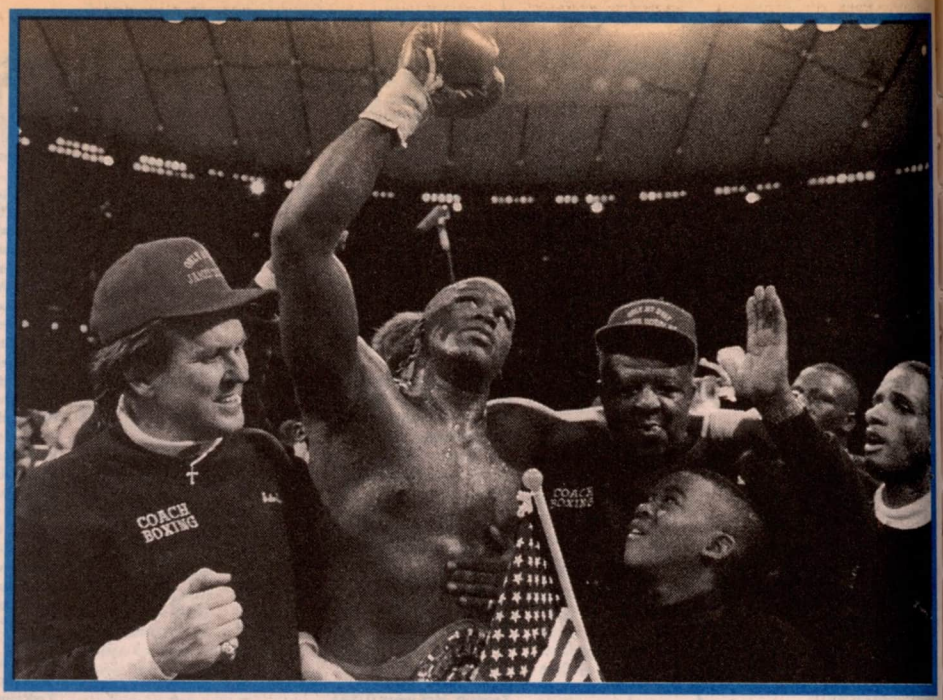
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Danny Romero (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	7	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	2	6	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	3	–	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	4	–	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	5	–	9
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	3	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	7	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	9	–	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	10	–	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	2	8
Andy Agosto (PR)	14	4	4
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	5	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	8	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	9	–
Edicson Torres (VEN)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	16	12	3
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	27	–	7
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Chatchai Dutchboy Gym (THAI)	**IC**	**–**	**–**
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mark Johnson (USA)	**12**	**–**	**C**
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	2	12	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	3	–	8
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	5	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	6	–	–
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	7	–	–
Peter Culshaw (GB)	8	–	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	9	4	9
Raul Juarez (MEX)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	1	2
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	29	3	–
Takashi Ohba (JAP)	26	5	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	6	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	–	7	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	8	3
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	–	9	–
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Ilido Julio (COL)	23	–	4
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	5
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Will Grigsby (USA)	28	–	7
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	12
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	10	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	–	8
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	4	–	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	9	11
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	6	8	–
Mzukuzi Marali (SA)	7	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	8	11	10
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	9	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	10	–	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	2	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	3	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	4	3
Sinn Ploenchit (THAI)	–	5	–
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	6	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	14	7	–
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	2
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	5
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	6
Takashi Shiohama (JAP)	–	–	7
Juan Cordoba (ARG)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Sinn Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	2	–	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	–	5
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	4	10	2
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	5	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	6	–	–
Lindi Memani (SA)	7	11	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	8	–	9
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Juan Herrera (COL)	10	–	6
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	5	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	25	6	–
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	7	4
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	30	8	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	–	3
Wellington Vicente (BRA)	–	–	7
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	22	–	8
Carlos Eluaiza (ARG)	–	–	10

CLASSIC



BUSTER!

How James Douglas Shocked The World

By Steve Farhood & Joe Koizumi

"I'm not in here," Buster Douglas said as he flipped through the pages of a boxing magazine that featured the highlights of the '80s. "But I bet I'll be in the one when they look back at the '90s."

The first to console the vanquished was he who tolled his demise. When Octavio Meyran hugged a battered and thoroughly beaten Mike Tyson at 1:23 of the 10th round at the Tokyo Dome on February 11, it was a terrible and wonderful sight.

What a terrible and wonderful sport.

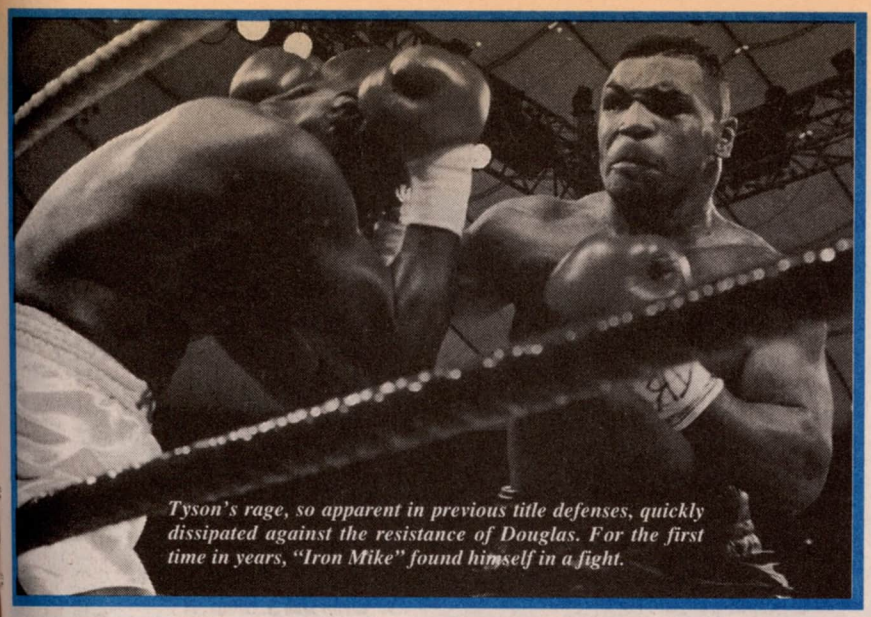
The American Dream hasn't died, you see. Buster Douglas just had to travel a few thousand miles to realize it.

Douglas' 10th-round stoppage of defending champion Tyson was the kind of spectacular finish that justifies the slow-motion playback feature on your VCR. First came the pole of a right uppercut that distorted Tyson's features and made his eyes roll. Then a left and a right and, finally, suspended forever, the final blow, a heavy hook that turned Tyson's head grotesquely and directed him to the cold floor.

"Pow, pow, POW!" Douglas said with oomph as he relived the knockout days later.

One of the truths of the fight game seems a contradiction: By taking something away from Mike Tyson, Buster Douglas gave him something he hadn't had before: the chance for greatness. The true legends, as Louis, Robinson, and Ali understood, don't fully emerge until they suffer some. Tyson wore a cloak of invincibility until it began to smother him. How can a fighter be invincible when

From THE RING, June 1990



Tyson's rage, so apparent in previous title defenses, quickly dissipated against the resistance of Douglas. For the first time in years, "Iron Mike" found himself in a fight.

he's never been in a fight? Another rollover knockout, then two more—first Douglas, then, Holyfield, then old man Foreman—what would that all have meant? Tyson's first challenge came later instead of sooner. So now, for the first time, he has the opportunity, both figuratively and literally, to rise from the canvas and snatch what seemed his in the first place: his place among the giants.

Clearly, it's his move.

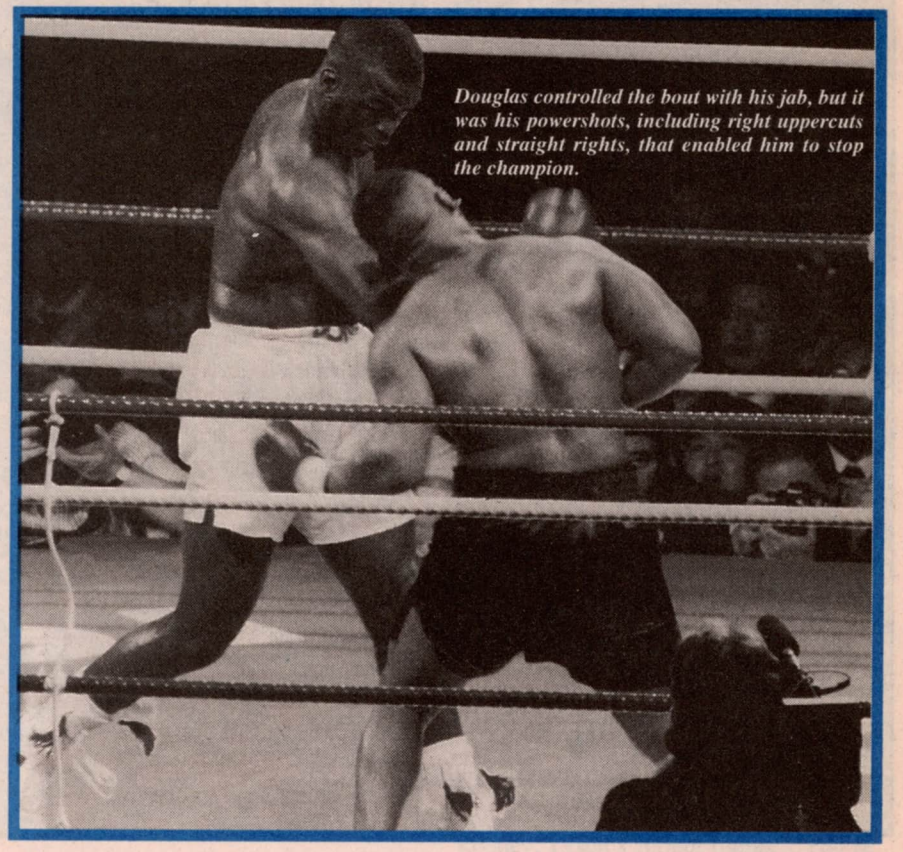
"But," warns John Johnson, the manager of the new champion, "there was no doubt in our minds Buster was gonna beat Mike Tyson's ass, and it's gonna be easier next time."

Of such drama are $100-million rematches made.

***

Mike Tyson arrived in Tokyo during a heavy snowstorm on January 16, almost a month before the fight. A week later, we watched incredulously as a tape of sparmate Greg Page dropping the undefeated champion with a counter right made the worldwide rounds on the satellite. The knockdown aside, Tyson wasn't in top shape. But 3 a.m. roadwork sessions brought his weight down, and in the week before the fight, he seemed ready, or at least ready enough to win.

That's because his opponent was *only* Douglas, who at 6'4" and anywhere from 230-260 pounds, was a giant of a heavyweight, but also an inconsistent sort. It seemed that big Buster, the son of former middleweight and light heavyweight contender Billy Douglas, had been genetically



Douglas controlled the bout with his jab, but it was his powershots, including right uppercuts and straight rights, that enabled him to stop the champion.

cheated; he was gifted with exceptional speed and coordination, but none of the fighting heart that had distinguished his father's career. Douglas had four losses and had been stopped by David Bey and, gulp, Mike "The Giant" White, a 6'10" sideshow attraction who once went to Brazil for a fight and stayed as a basketball player.

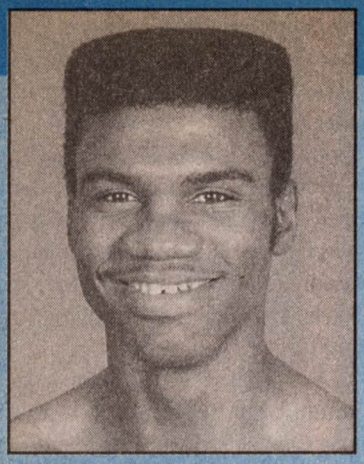
Douglas' resume was only one of his handicaps. His mother, Lula Pearl, 46, died of a stroke on January 18. "Not a person existed who wanted him to be heavyweight champion more than his mom," said Johnson. Moreover, Doris Jefferson, the mother of Buster's 11-year-old son, was suffering from leukemia. Less than a year ago, Douglas' wife of two years, Bertha, walked out on him without explanation. And as if the challenger needed further distractions, Douglas ended preparation for Tyson by taking shots of penicillin to combat the flu.

In Nevada, where you can find odds on anything from ballgames to The Miss Carson City Sanitation Department Beauty Queen Contest, only one hotel, The Mirage in Las Vegas, offered a betting line. Tyson opened a 35-1 favorite, and after one high roller wagered $70,000 on the champion (for a potential profit of just $2,000), and a few other large Tyson bets were taken, the odds moved to 42-1.

The greatest upset in boxing history? Ask the guy who lost the $70,000—if he's still with us.

On the other side of the world, those in Tokyo with a yen—or, more accurately, 150,000 yen—to see the fight paid the American equivalent of $1,035 for a ringside seat. What they saw probably shocked

THE RING RATINGS, *June 1990*



Julian Jackson

HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Buster Douglas**, Columbus, OH (World Champ)
2. **Mike Tyson**, Catskill, NY
3. **Evander Holyfield**, Atlanta, GA
4. **Michael Dokes**, Las Vegas, NV
5. **Tim Witherspoon**, Philadelphia, PA
6. **Francesco Damiani**, Italy
7. **Orlin Norris**, Campo, CA
8. **Carl Williams**, White Plains, NY
9. **Razor Ruddock**, Canada
10. **Gary Mason**, England

CRUISERWEIGHTS
1. **Carlos DeLeon**, Puerto Rico**
2. **Taoufik Belbouli**, France
3. **Robert Daniels**, Miami, FL*
4. **Dwight Muhammad Qawi**, Cherry Hill, NJ
5. **Glenn McCrory**, England***
6. **Nate Miller**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Anaclet Wamba**, France
8. **Patrick Lumumba**, Kenya
9. **James Warring**, Miami, FL
10. **Boone Pultz**, Tyler, TX

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Virgil Hill**, Las Vegas, NV*
2. **Prince Charles Williams**, Mansfield, OH***
3. **Michael Moorer**, Detroit, MI
4. **Jeff Harding**, Australia**
5. **Dennis Andries**, Detroit, MI
6. **Don Lalonde**, Canada
7. **Leslie Stewart**, Trinidad & Tobago
8. **Graciano Rocchigiani**, Germany
9. **Joe Lasisi**, Las Vegas, NV
10. **Eric Nicoletta**, France

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Ray Leonard**, Potomac, MD**
2. **Thomas Hearns**, Las Vegas, NV
3. **Lindell Holmes**, Detroit, MI***
4. **In Chul Baek**, South Korea*
5. **Christophe Tiozzo**, France
6. **Antoine Byrd**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Frank Tate**, Houston, TX
8. **James Kinchen**, San Diego, CA
9. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**, Venezuela
10. **Victor Cordova**, Panama

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Michael Nunn**, Los Angeles, CA***
2. **Sumbu Kalambay**, Italy
3. **Mike McCallum**, Brooklyn, NY*
4. **Roberto Duran**, Miami, FL
5. **Iran Barkley**, Bronx, NY
6. **Michael Watson**, England
7. **Herol Graham**, England
8. **Nigel Benn**, England
9. **Doug DeWitt**, Yonkers, NY
10. **Steve Collins**, Brockton, MA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Julian Jackson**, Virgin Islands*
2. **John Mugabi**, Tampa, FL**
3. **Gianfranco Rosi**, Italy***
4. **John David Jackson**, Tucson, AZ
5. **Terry Norris**, Campo, CA
6. **Rene Jacquot**, France
7. **Donald Curry**, Ft. Worth, TX
8. **Darrin Van Horn**, Lexington, KY
9. **Robert Hines**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Chris Pyatt**, England

WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Marlon Starling**, South Windsor, CT**
2. **Simon Brown**, Washington, D.C.***
3. **Lloyd Honeyghan**, England
4. **Mark Breland**, Brooklyn, NY*
5. **Buddy McGirt**, Brentwood, NY
6. **Tyrone Trice**, Detroit, MI
7. **Maurice Blocker**, Washington, D.C.
8. **Glenwood Brown**, Plainfield, NJ
9. **Aaron Davis**, Bronx, NY
10. **Antoine Fernandez**, France

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Julio Cesar Chavez**, Mexico**
2. **Meldrick Taylor**, Philadelphia, PA***
3. **Juan Coggi**, Argentina*
4. **Roger Mayweather**, Las Vegas, NV
5. **Hector Camacho**, Big Cypress, FL
6. **Ras-I Bramble**, Hampton Township, NJ
7. **Loreto Garza**, Sacramento, CA
8. **Frankie Randall**, Morristown, TN
9. **Louie Lomeli**, Melrose Park, IL
10. **Sammy Fuentes**, Puerto Rico

LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. **Pernell Whitaker**, Norfolk, VA**/***
2. **Edwin Rosario**, Puerto Rico*
3. **Tracy Spann**, Plainfield, NJ
4. **Freddie Pendleton**, Miami, FL
5. **Greg Haugen**, Henderson, NV
6. **John Duplessis**, New Orleans, LA
7. **David Gonzales**, San Jose, CA
8. **Chil Sung Chun**, South Korea
9. **Poli Diaz**, Spain
10. **Iwao Otomo**, Japan

them. (We can't be sure, because Japanese fight crowds respond to action as if they're attending the opera.) It also left them asking the questions all fight fans were pondering: Was Douglas that good? Was Tyson that bad? Or, more precisely, what combination of the two contributed to the fantastic result? Only a rematch can begin to provide the answers.

"I fear no man," Douglas says. He proved it in the very first round. Tyson's standard opening-round bombardment never surfaced, and with 50 seconds left in the round, Douglas landed the first of what would become a debilitating series of right crosses. Again, the chicken or the egg? Tyson may have been lethargic—even in round one, his punch total was a paltry 13—but Douglas' right, combined with his dominant power jab, also gave the champion reason to pause.

This wouldn't be one of those 90-second jobs.

In the second, Tyson damaged his chances by establishing that once close enough to negate Douglas' 12-inch reach advantage, he would lazily fall into a clinch. "Douglas," wrote *The Village Voice*, "picked up what Spinks and Holmes didn't—that Tyson doesn't know diddly about fighting inside." With 20 seconds left in the round, Douglas let his fists flow for the first time. He was thudding punches against Tyson's face, and paying no price for his boldness.

*WBA Champ **WBC Champ ***IBF Champ

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. Azumah Nelson, Ghana**
2. John-John Molina, Puerto Rico***
3. Brian Mitchell, South Africa*
4. Jeff Fenech, Australia
5. Tony Lopez, Sacramento, CA
6. Genaro Hernandez, Los Angeles, CA
7. Bernard Taylor, Knoxville, TN
8. Juan LaPorte, New York, NY
9. Mario Martinez, Mexico
10. Joey Gamache, Lewiston, ME

FEATHERWEIGHTS
1. Antonio Esparragoza, Venezuela*
2. Jeff Fenech, Australia
3. Jorge Paez, Mexico***
4. Louie Espinoza, Phoenix, AZ
5. Troy Dorsey, Dallas, TX
6. Maurizio Stecca, Italy
7. Pee Wee Parker, Houston, TX
8. Marcos Villasana, Mexico
9. Ricardo Cepeda, Bronx, NY
10. Paul Hodkinson, England

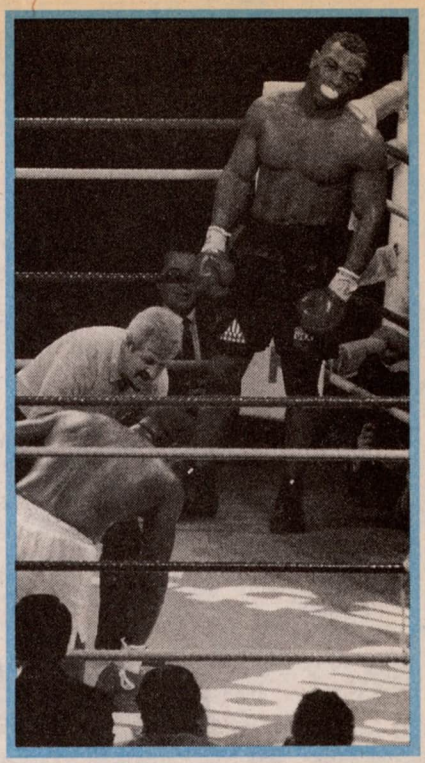
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
1. Daniel Zaragoza, Mexico**
2. Jesus Salud, San Diego, CA*
3. Seung Hoon Lee, South Korea
4. Juan Jose Estrada, Mexico
5. Fabrice Benichou, France***
6. Kenny Mitchell, Houston, TX
7. Pedro Decima, Argentina
8. Paul Banke, Quail Valley, CA
9. Jesse Benavides, Corpus Christi, TX
10. Jemal Hinton, District Heights, MD

BANTAMWEIGHTS
1. Raul Perez, Mexico**
2. Orlando Canizales, Laredo, TX***
3. Luisito Espinosa, Philippines*
4. Gerardo Martinez, San Jose, CA
5. Israel Contreras, Venezuela
6. Kaokor Galaxy, Thailand
7. Wilfredo Vazquez, Puerto Rico
8. Pepillo Valdez, Mexico
9. Hurley Snead, Detroit, MI
10. Billy Hardy, England

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
1. Khaosai Galaxy, Thailand*
2. Sung Kil Moon, South Korea**
3. Nana Konadu, Ghana
4. Gilberto Roman, Mexico
5. Jose Ruiz, Puerto Rico
6. Juan Polo, Colombia***
7. Thanomsak Sithbaobey, Thailand
8. Elly Pical, Indonesia
9. Robert Quiroga, San Antonio, TX
10. Yong Heun Lee, South Korea

FLYWEIGHTS
1. Sot Chitalada, Thailand**
2. Jesus Rojas, Venezuela*
3. Dave McAuley, Ireland***
4. Jung Koo Chang, South Korea
5. Javier Lucas, Mexico
6. Richard Clarke, Jamaica
7. Leopard Tamakuma, Japan
8. Yul Woo Lee, South Korea
9. Romy Navarette, Philippines
10. Yong Kang Kim, South Korea

POUND-FOR-POUND
1. Julio Cesar Chavez, Junior Welterweight
2. Pernell Whitaker, Lightweight
3. Michael Nunn, Middleweight
4. Antonio Esparragoza, Featherweight
5. Meldrick Taylor, Junior Welterweight
6. Buster Douglas, Heavyweight
7. Mike Tyson, Heavyweight
8. Azumah Nelson, Junior Lightweight
9. Raul Perez, Bantamweight
10. Virgil Hill, Light Heavyweight



When an uppercut dropped Douglas in round eight, it seemed Tyson would save the title with a spectacular knockout. But Douglas, showing the courage he was supposed to be lacking, survived the followup assault and regained control.

It was in round four that Douglas first exhibited the quickness of foot that would allow him to retreat a half-step, drive in a one-two, and then safely retreat another half-step. That one-two combination struck Tyson throughout the fight. Unable, or unwilling, to use sufficient head and/or upper body movement, Tyson became a ridiculously easy target. Worse yet, he was an impotent target. When the 5'10" Tyson stood erect and Douglas popped him from a comfortable and safe range, it seemed, visually at least, an unfair matchup of a light heavyweight vs. a heavyweight.

Halfway through the fifth, Douglas snapped back Tyson's head with a right-left combination. The champion, more meek than miffed, returned to his corner with a partially closed left eye at the end of the round.

"So what," Tyson said afterward. "If one eye closes, you've got another one, so use it. My heart was beating. That's all that mattered, so I kept on fighting.'

"It's your fight, it's your show," Douglas was told between the sixth and seventh rounds. "This guy's f___in' scared to death!"

In the opposite corner, Tyson seconds Aaron Snowell and Jay Bright were much less vocal. Snowell whispered in his fighter's ear—given the circumstances, something more forceful might have been more appropriate—and Bright applied an icebag, and not the far more effective Enswell device, to the champion's swollen eye. Tyson was suffering through a career-worst performance, and his cornermen were providing little physical or emotional help.

"His mind wasn't there," said Kevin Rooney, Tyson's former trainer. "You're either gonna fight or not. After the second or third round, he would've gotten a smack in the face [if Rooney had been working the corner.]"

"Could you imagine Buster Douglas, undisputed heavyweight champion of the world?" HBO's Jim Lampley wondered about two minutes into the eighth round. "It boggles the mind." But with five seconds remaining in a round that had been dominated by the challenger, Douglas fell into a

THE GREATEST UPSETS IN HEAVYWEIGHT HISTORY

If you wanted to place a legal bet on the outcome of the Tyson-Douglas fight, the only gambling house willing to take your money was The Mirage in Las Vegas. Tyson opened up as a 35-1 favorite. After a $70,000 bet on Tyson, and several other large bets, the odds moved to 42-1. As far as we know, no one made a significant wager on Douglas.

Douglas-Tyson was the biggest upset in boxing history. Here are the other major upsets in heavyweight title fights.

"Gentleman" Jim Corbett KO 21 John L. Sullivan, September 7, 1892: In the 10th year of his reign, the 33-year-old undefeated Sullivan was a 5-1 favorite. The challenger danced the entire fight, while the older, slower Sullivan continually threw wild punches that rarely landed. In the 21st round, Corbett connected with a left hook to the jaw that stunned Sullivan, then quickly followed with a flurry that knocked the "Boston Strong Boy" down and out. The shocking knockout ended what remains the second-longest reign in heavyweight history.

Gene Tunney W 10 Jack Dempsey, September 23, 1926: A 5-1 favorite, Dempsey had been champion for seven years. Ex-Marine Tunney, however, was the overwhelming favorite of the crowd estimated at more than 130,000 in Philadelphia. The champion bolted from his corner in the opening round and tried to reach Tunney, a master boxer, with left hooks. After cleverly avoiding Dempsey's barrage, Tunney stepped inside another hook and nailed the champion with a right cross that buckled his legs and dazed him. The blow set the tone, and Tunney won a lopsided decision, which set up the famous "long count" rematch.

James J. Braddock W 15 Max Baer, June 13, 1935: The Madison Square Garden Bowl was half-empty; few cared to view this mismatch between 10-1 underdog Braddock and world champion Baer, who had battered the giant Primo Carnera into submission a year earlier. Braddock won the first five rounds by landing jabs and working the body and head with a strong cross while circling away from Baer's lethal right. Each man scored well the rest of the way, with Baer losing two rounds on fouls. The decision was close but unanimous. Baer would be knocked out by Joe Louis three months later; Braddock would fall victim to Louis in a title fight the next June. Neither ever fought for the title again.

Cassius Clay KO 7 Sonny Liston, February 25, 1964: Clay, a 7-1 underdog, was not intimidated by the surly Liston, who had won the title by knocking out Floyd Patterson in one round, then repeating the performance in a rematch. Clay came out flicking lightning-quick jabs while dancing away from Liston, who primarily worked the body. The defending champion took the second, fourth, and fifth rounds on most cards, but Clay landed jabs and hooks that opened a cut under Liston's left eye in the third, and caused swelling under his right eye in the fourth. Clay escalated his attack with combinations in the sixth. At the bell starting the seventh, Liston quit on his stool, claiming a separated shoulder. Boxing would never be the same.

Leon Spinks W 15 Muhammad Ali, February 15, 1978: Spinks, who, like Tunney, was an ex-Marine, entered the ring as an 8-1 underdog. A gold medal winner at the 1976 Olympics, Spinks was just 6-0-1, with a total of 31 rounds of pro experience. The spirited underdog outhustled and overwhelmed the sluggish, 36-year-old living legend and deservedly earned a split decision victory. Ali would win the rematch seven months later and become the first heavyweight in history to win the title three times.

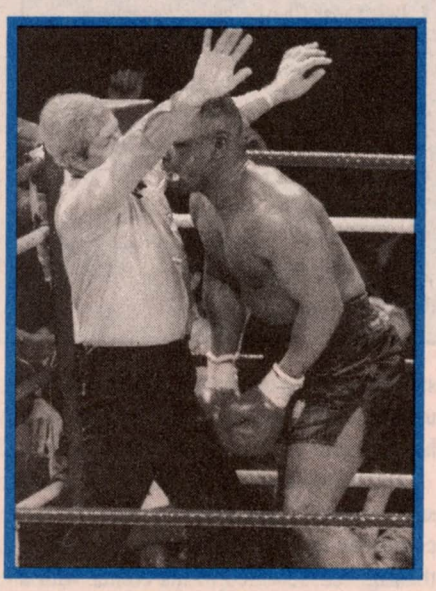
–Ed Maloney

thunderous right uppercut. The challenger crashed, then skidded. Those who had settled into the rhythm of the pending upset were jolted upright. A miracle punch had brought back a familiar scenario: Tyson punching with bad intentions, and bigger heavyweights falling at his feet.

Timekeeper Riichi Hirano, appointed by the Japanese Boxing Commission, began a count at 2:57 of the round. But referee Meyran failed to make eye contact with the local official, who will forever be remembered as the man in the white gloves. Meyran counted "one" as Hirano fingered "three," and, in the eyes of Don King, at least, a controversy was born.

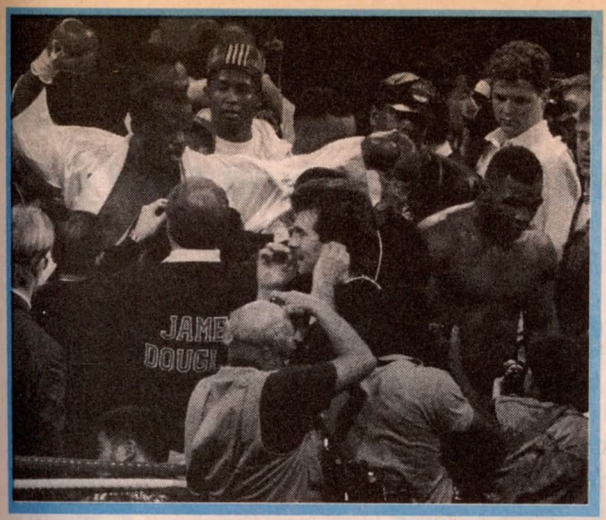
"That's the first thing you learn when you get knocked down," said Douglas. "That's to pick up the referee's count. If you study the films, you see I got up strong."

Douglas rose at Meyran's count of nine, though it appeared he could have regained his feet at any point after five. (The challenger was down for a total of 13.25 seconds.) Then came another potentially disastrous abuse of precious seconds: The bell, which should have sounded during Meyran's count, rang with Douglas standing and the heavyweights ready to resume combat. The length of the round was 3:14.



Referee Octavio Meyran reached the count of 10 just before a dizzy Tyson regained his feet. Even if Tyson had beaten the count, he would have been in no condition to adequately defend himself. Tyson didn't argue the stoppage.

Douglas, shaken but not dizzy, easily survived the first 30 seconds of round nine, his most critical juncture of the battle. A pair of stinging left-rights sucked the spirit from Tyson, and just like that, control was Buster's again. Tyson's moment of hope had vanished because Douglas, billed as a heavyweight with little stamina and less heart, had managed to gather himself during the gut-check of a lifetime. With a minute to go, Douglas pinned Tyson against the ropes and poured in punches. The unimaginable was unfolding, and Mike Tyson was near-helpless.



Who could possibly have envisioned the postfight scene, in which 42-1 underdog Douglas rejoiced and Tyson, a loser for the first time as a pro, dejectedly returned to his corner?

The signs were jumping out at us, but no matter; when the violent 10th-round ending came, introduced by that payback right uppercut, it hit like an electric shock. *Tyson with glazed eyes; Tyson on all fours; Tyson struggling to shove his gumshield back into his mouth; Tyson standing—barely—but deemed by Meyran unable to fight on; Buster Douglas the heavyweight champion of the world!*

"This is a dream, this is truly a dream," the new titlist said. "I did what I did—whupped his ass."

But because of Don King's protest regarding Meyran's count during the eighth-round knockdown, Douglas had to wait about 36 hours before becoming undisputed champion. Bob Lee, president of the IBF, quickly dismissed King's protest, but Jose Sulaiman and Gilberto Mendoza, the presidents of the WBC and WBA, respectively, kept the title in limbo before succumbing to mounting pressure.

"[Sulaiman] felt he had made a terrible mistake and was embarrassed by it," said Duane Ford, a WBC official, speaking on behalf of the president.

King, of course, wins even when he loses. He has five options on Douglas' future fights, which will presumably include a Tyson rematch. If Johnson is satisfied with King's offer—somewhere between $15- and $20-million should suffice—that rematch could surface as a pay-per-view event in September. If not, Douglas will face number-one contender Evander Holyfield, who had been signed to challenge Tyson on June 12.

"Don King is no longer calling the shots," Johnson said.

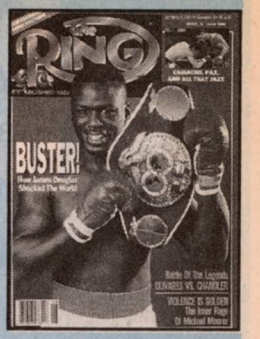
In the months ahead, Douglas will be given the time to enjoy his new status. How Tyson accepts *his* new status will determine the future of Douglas, the division, and a suddenly vulnerable career.

"I just want to get in [the ring]," Tyson said. "He's just a temporary resident. I love the title, so that means more than the money. Losing is part of this business."

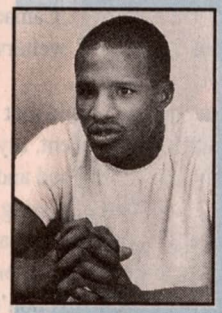
A part that we never thought Mike Tyson would have to accept. ■

Joe Koizumi, who was ringside at Douglas-Tyson, is The Ring's correspondent in Asia.

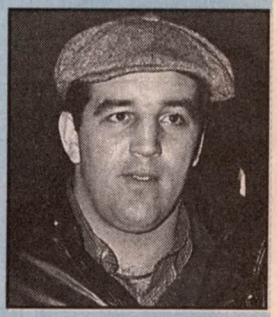
THE RING, June 1990



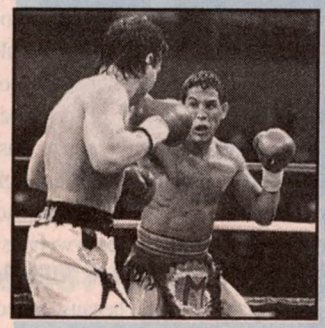
The Cover: Only a couple of days after knocking out Mike Tyson in Tokyo, newly crowned heavyweight champion Buster Douglas posed for THE RING in a midtown Manhattan hotel room. We didn't have to tell Big Bus to smile.



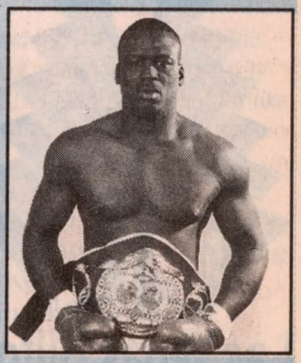
Violence Is Golden: Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood profiles unbeaten light heavyweight Michael Moorer, a quiet fighter who craves violence—in and out of the ring. "I have to try and not let it get the better of me," he says.



Excuses, Excuses: Phil Berger examines the excuses fighters have made after losing big fights. An example: Gerry Cooney (pictured) partly blamed the press for his loss to Larry Holmes. Berger's conclusion: All world-class fighters have egos, and even after losing efforts, they protect themselves at all costs.



Paz And The Macho Man: The Atlantic City matchup of Vinny Pazienza and Hector Camacho promised to be entertaining, and no one went home disappointed. Managing Editor Jeff Ryan reports from ringside, where Camacho shined in scoring a 12-round unanimous decision.



Fighter Of The Month: And Fighter of the Year. And just maybe Fighter of the Century. Buster Douglas was a 42-1 underdog vs. defending heavyweight champion Mike Tyson. All he did was dominate the previously undefeated powerpuncher and then rise from the floor to score a 10th-round kayo. Wow!

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

AN UNLIKELY ELDER STATESMAN

When "The Macho Man" is a mere memory, boxing fans are going to examine Hector Camacho's fight-by-fight record and note that in successive bouts, he faced the best of the '80s (Sugar Ray Leonard) and the best of the '90s (Oscar De La Hoya). Camacho kayoed a comebacking Leonard in March. On September 13, he'll duke it out with WBC welterweight king De La Hoya on pay-per-view in Las Vegas. Don't expect him to go two-for-two.

Camacho: Just an opponent?

Camacho has mellowed, and that ain't no fun at all. On the media tour that hyped the fight, he was sickeningly kind to his opponent, saying, "He's the new kid on the block. He's 'The Golden Boy.' All the girls love him. He looks good and is an excellent boxer, a true student of the game."

Camacho fell just short of kissing De La Hoya. Fortunately, if you give him enough time in front of a microphone, he'll warm to the occasion.

"I'm gonna come right out and break him down," Camacho got around to saying, even if he didn't sound particularly menacing. "I don't think he's ever been in a real war with a true warrior. I'm gonna shove him, I'm gonna push him, I'm gonna brawl with him, I'm going into the streets with him." Problem is, Camacho's street these days is more likely to be on Rodeo Drive than in Spanish Harlem.

De La Hoya didn't seem worried. In fact, given the attention paid to him by swooning, shrieking females throughout the tour, it was difficult for him to focus on Camacho at all. His trainer, Emanuel Steward, thinks Camacho's going to be easy. Maybe that's because Camacho will presumably weaken himself reducing to 147 pounds. Whatever the case, Camacho has been dropped only once (by Reyes Cruz in 1988) and never stopped. De La Hoya's challenge isn't to win, but to do so inside the distance.

How's this for a positive attitude: We don't expect a great fight, so maybe we'll be pleasantly surprised.

LISTEN UP

We can't talk about **Mike Tyson's** future for a while, so let's look at **De La Hoya**. It was initially thought that after facing Camacho, The Golden Boy would defend against mandatory challenger and European champion **Patrick Charpentier** in December. Now it looks like the Frenchman is out and Puerto Rico's **Wilfredo Rivera**, who gave **Pernell Whitaker** a pair of tough battles, is in, probably at Madison Square Garden. After that? De La Hoya's 1998 schedule is likely to include at least two big names, Whitaker and **Terry Norris** ... Underneath De La Hoya-Camacho will be IBF junior middleweight champion **Raul Marquez** defending against the always dangerous **Yori Boy Campas** ... By the time you read this, you'll probably know who **George Foreman** is scheduled to fight on September 20. The three heavyweights who made the final cut were **Shannon Briggs**, **Jeremy Williams**, and **Jesse Ferguson** ... Poor **Dariusz Michalczewski**. Three days after defeating **Virgil Hill**, the German light heavyweight gave up the IBF title because he couldn't defend in time against **William Guthrie**. A couple of weeks after that, Michalczewski had the WBA title stripped because he refused to give up the WBO crown, which he held before beating Hill. If the WBA matches the two highest-rated available contenders, the vacancy will be filled by either **Lou Del Valle** or **Eddy Smulders**.

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Evander Holyfield	Michael Moorer	2-1	I have an earie feeling about this one
Vince Phillips	Kostya Tszyu	Pick 'em	Slight edge to Tszyu in Australia
Oscar De La Hoya	Hector Camacho	13-1	Camacho can't touch Oscar in the ring
Miguel A. Gonzalez	Julio Cesar Chavez	2-1	Chavez can't beat top fighters

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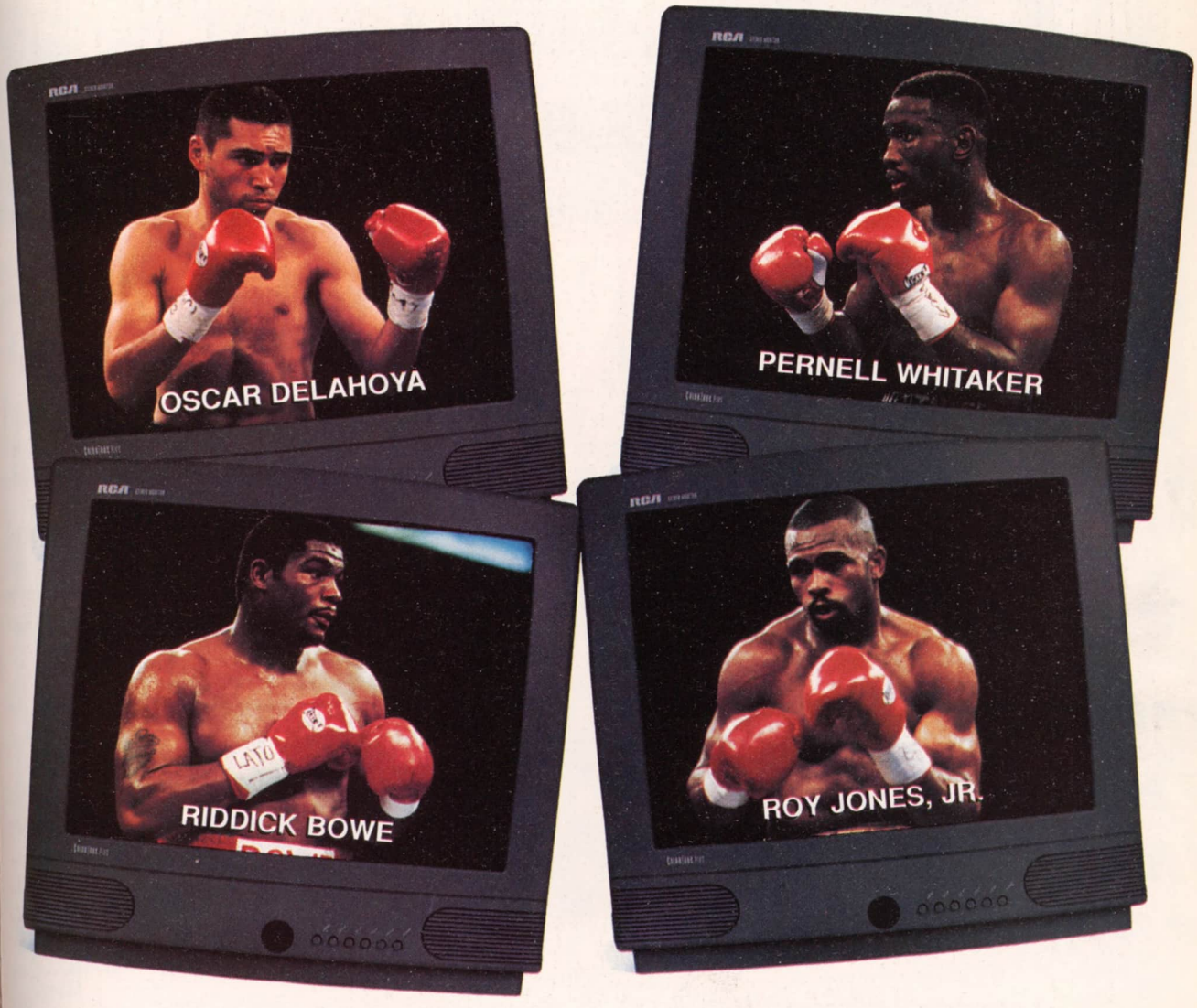

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